

CH-501
Old Mill Swamp Farm
Marshall Hall vic.
Private

circa 1903

Old Mill Swamp Farm consists of a Vernacular Victorian main dwelling house and several 20th century outbuildings. Located on an 83-acre property in the Marshall Hall vicinity, the house displays Victorian decorative features, including the sawtooth and fishscale shingles set in the front gable. Although greatly altered, the house retains its original basic form and setting. The house is two stories in height with a front gable roof and an original double-leaf front door.

Old Mill Swamp Farm represents a typical small southern Maryland farmstead of the early 20th century. In addition to its agricultural uses, the property is important as an industrial/commercial site that once housed a saw milling operation and a blacksmith shop. The house itself is notable for its simple Victorian features that can still be distinguished, despite substantial alterations.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-501

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Old Mill Swamp Farm
common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 6805 Bird Wing Place not for publication _____
city or town Marshall Hall vicinity state Maryland code MD
county Charles code 017 zip code 20616

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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>5</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>5</u>		Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE Blacksmith shop

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular Victorian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation pier: stone
roof front gable: standing seam metal
walls frame: vinyl siding
other _____

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-501

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance circa 1903

Significant Dates circa 1903

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.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property 83.17 acres

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

The property at 6805 Bird Wing Place is designated as Parcel 158 on Map 1, Grid 23 on the Charles County Property Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The house at 6805 Bird Wing Place has been associated with Parcel 158, Map 1 since its construction circa 1903.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian
 organization Charles County Planning Dept. date Oct. 14, 1998
 street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689
 city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

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12. Property Owner

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name Harold R. and Russola B. Baker
 street & number 6805 Bird Wing Place telephone _____
 city or town Bryans Road state MD zip code 20616

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-501

Section 7 Page 1

Old Mill Swamp Farm
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====
Old Mill Swamp Farm consists of the main dwelling house and several 20th century outbuildings. Located on an 83-acre property in the Marshall Hall vicinity, the house displays Victorian decorative features, including the sawtooth and fishscale shingles set in the front gable. Although greatly altered, the house retains its original form and setting. The house is two stories in height with a front gable roof and an original double-leaf front door.

The property consists of 83 acres of rolling hills and level fields. The dwelling sits atop a low rise approximately one-tenth of a mile northeast of Marshall Hall Road. A dirt lane, known as Bird Wing Place, approaches the dwelling from the main road. Several mature trees grow near the house.

The original portion of the main dwelling features a 2-story, front gable frame building, 1-room wide and two deep. The house sits on a stone pier foundation that has been covered by new vinyl wall cladding that continues to the ground. Two interior corbeled cap brick chimneys pierce the roof, one near the center of the ridge line and another near the northeast gable end. The standing seam metal roof terminates in open eaves.

The house has been altered by a large 1-story frame addition that extends from the south corner of the house, across its southeast elevation, and terminates along its northeast gable end. This addition is set on a poured concrete foundation and covered by a shed roof clad in asphalt shingles. A small projecting vestibule entry with a shed roof was also added on the northwest elevation near the building's north corner. Other alterations include the vinyl siding that clads the exterior walls, and the replacement of nearly all the original windows with metal sash.

The facade's remaining original features include a centered double-leaf entry door crowned by a fixed 2-light transom and sawtooth and fishscale shingles adorning the front gable. The entry was originally flanked by two double-hung sash windows, which have since been elongated and replaced with fixed 14-light metal windows. The second story of the facade is broken by two original window openings each with a replacement 6/6 sash. The only other opening on the facade is a 6/6 metal sash window located on the southwest wall of the large frame addition.

A second entry is located on the northwest side of the house, near its north corner. Sheltered by a shed vestibule addition, this entry contains a single panel-and-light wood door. The remainder

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-501

Section 7 Page 2

Old Mill Swamp Farm
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

of the first story here contains one original 4-light fixed wood window and one replacement 6/6 metal sash window. Above this are two more replacement windows vertically aligned with those below.

The rear gable end of the building reveals only one original opening on the first story, due to the intrusion of the large 1-story frame addition. This window contains the only remaining original 6/6 double-hung wood sash window in the house. Above this two original window openings filled by replacement 6/6 sash, pierce the wall. The large frame addition on the first story holds one 6/6 metal sash window on its northeast wall, and one 1/1 metal sash window on its northwest wall.

The long southeast wall of the addition obscures the entire first story of the original house. Its surface is pierced by three windows and one projecting shed-roof vestibule. The windows hold two 6/6 metal sashes and a pair of 6-light sliding metal panes. The entry vestibule is lighted by two 2-light fixed metal window panes and accessed through a metal and glass louvered door on the northeast side. The southeast side's second story holds two original window openings filled with replacement 6/6 metal sash.

OUTBUILDINGS:

The property contains three permanent outbuildings and two portable trailer homes. The oldest of these is a frame shed/workshop probably erected in the 1950s. One story in height, the shed has a sloping shed roof and a front gable addition off its southeast end. A 1970s concrete block shed with a sloping shed roof also occupies the site. The large 1-story metal clad horse barn was built in the 1980s. Two 1970s house trailers stand to the rear of the main dwelling.

The owner indicated that a former owner operated a blacksmith shop and sawmill on this site. He has also found evidence of a whiskey still on the property.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-501

Section 8 Page 1

Old Mill Swamp Farm
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

Old Mill Swamp Farm represents a typical small southern Maryland farmstead of the early 20th century. In addition to its agricultural uses, the property is important as an industrial/commercial site that once housed a saw milling operation and a blacksmith shop. The house itself is distinguished by its simple Victorian features that can still be distinguished, despite substantial alterations.

The farm was originally a portion of a large tract of land owned by the Marshall family of Marshall Hall. In 1856, the lands of John Hanson Marshall were divided and sold off. By 1884, the Old Mill Swamp Farm tract was part of a 292-acre parcel owned by Elizabeth Monroe of Alexandria, Virginia. That year, Monroe sold it to John T. Clark of Anne Arundel County, Maryland for \$4100. The Clarks passed the same parcel along to Elizabeth Fear (wife of Boston Fear of Baltimore, Maryland) for \$4200. The Fears mortgaged the property to Henry D. Jamison and James W. Peters in 1902. Apparently, the Fears defaulted on the mortgage and the property reverted to the mortgagees that same year. The mortgagees promptly sold the property to Edgar Snavelly of Baltimore County, Maryland for a mere \$1750. Two years later, in 1904, Mr. Snavelly once again sold the 292-acre property to Annie M. Reinfels for \$1850. The land passed to George Reinfels after Annie's death in 1939, and he deeded it to his daughter in 1945.

It is believed that the present dwelling was erected during the Reinfels ownership, likely around 1904 when the land was first purchased. Oral history indicates that George Reinfels maintained a blacksmith shop on the property during his tenure there, as well as a circular sawmill. The land remained in the Spooner-Reinfels family until 1984 when an 83-acre portion of it was sold to the present owners.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-501

Old Mill Swamp Farm
name of property
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
COMMERCE

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-501

Old Mill Swamp Farm
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Chain of Title:

January 21, 1884: Elizabeth Monroe of Alexandria, VA
to John T. Clark of Anne Arundel
County, MD
\$4100
Part of the estate of the late
Hanson Marshall, known as part of
"Marshall Hall"
Charles County Land Records
Liber BGS 7 Folio 24

November 12, 1894: John T. & Mary A. Clark to Elizabeth
Fear (wife of Boston Fear of
Baltimore, MD)
\$4200
292 acres, 25 poles
Part of the estate of the late
Hanson Marshall
Charles County Land Records
Liber JST 7 Folio 122

March 6, 1902: Boston Fear & Mary Fear, Spinster of
Baltimore City, MD, and Elizabeth
Mormon of Alexandria, VA to Henry D.
Adams Jamison & James W. Peters
\$1000 Second mortgage
Charles County Land Records
Liber BGS 12 Folio 578

October 2, 1902: Henry D. Adams Jamison of Worcester
County, MD, James W. & Ella G.
Peters of Caroline County, VA to
Edgar Snavely of Baltimore County
\$1750
292 acres
Charles County Land Records
Liber BGS 13 Folio 245

January 22, 1904: Edgar & Carrie Snavely of Baltimore
County to Annie M. Reinfels
\$1850
292 acres, 25 perches
Charles County Land Records
Liber BGS 14 Folio 522

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-501

Old Mill Swamp Farm
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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April 22, 1939: Annie M. Reinfels to George Reinfels
Charles County Register of Wills
Liber REC 22 Folio 593

December 13, 1945: George Reinfels, widower to Rose R.
Spooner
292 acres
Charles County Land Records
Liber TBM 82 Folio 435

October 4, 1947: Rose R. & Laurence H. Spooner to
Agnes Richards
Charles County Land Records
Liber 86 Folio 12

October 4, 1947: Agnes Richards, unmarried to Rose R.
& Laurence H. Spooner
\$1.00
10 acres + 292 acres
Charles County Land Records
Liber PCM 86 Folio 14

June 2, 1955: Laurence H. & Mary C. Spooner to
Mathilde Owen
\$1.00
Charles County Land Records
Liber 118 Folio 62

June 2, 1955: Mathilde Owen, unmarried to Laurence
H. & Mary C. Spooner
\$1.00
10 acres + 292 acres on east side of
road from Marshall Hall to Bryans
Road
Charles County Land Records
Liber 118 Folio 66

August 13, 1973: Laurence H. Spooner to Laurence H. &
Grace Spooner
\$1.00
Two parcels: 10 acres + 292 acres
Charles County Land Records
Liber 301 Folio 36

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-501

Old Mill Swamp Farm
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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April 12, 1984:

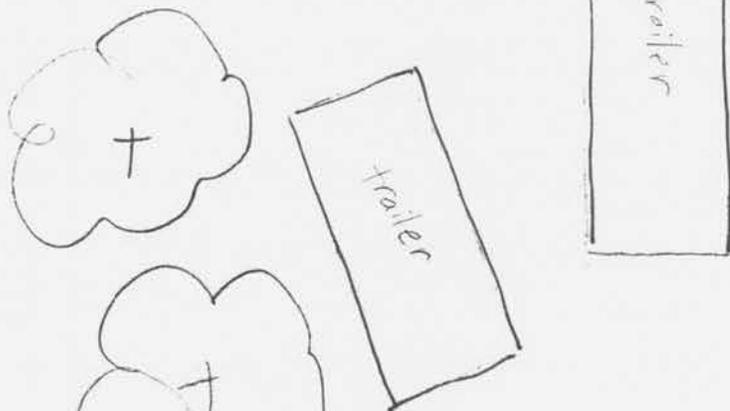
Laurence H. & Grace Adell Spooner to
Harold Russell & Russola B. Baker
\$150,000
83.1 acres
Charles County Land Records
Liber 976 Folio 204

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

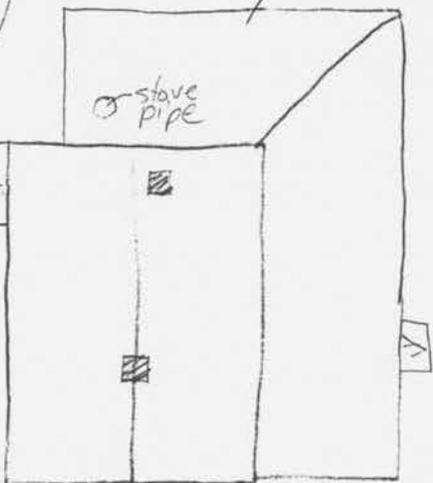
10/98

OLD MILL SWAMP FARM
6805 Bird Wing Place
CHARLES CO., MD.
BRYANS ROAD, VIC.

CH-501



concrete block & fram addn.



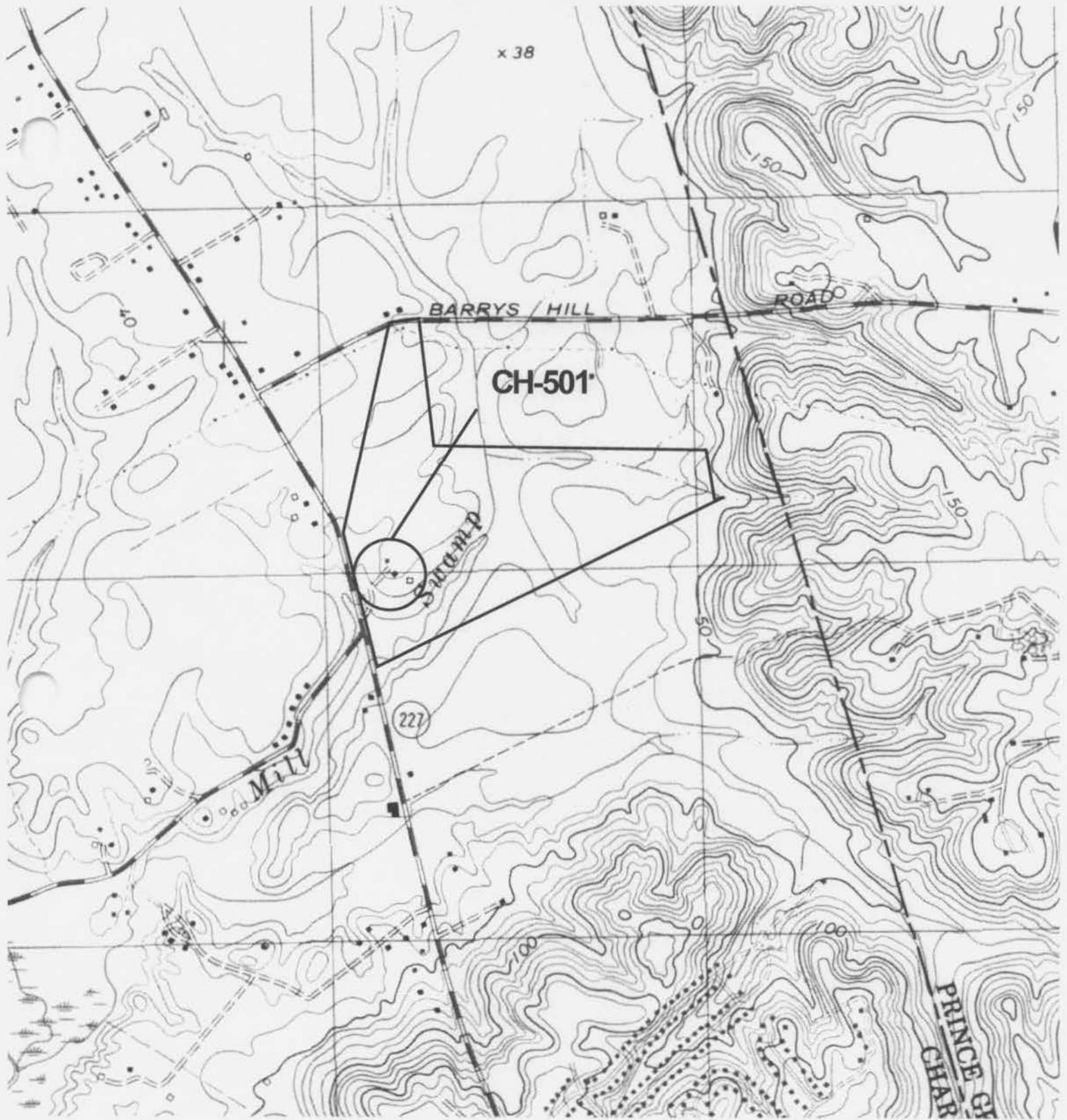
wood plank fence

Bird Wing Pl.

slopes down

to Marshall Hall Rd.





Old Mill Swamp Farm
Charles County, MD

CH-501

MOUNT VERNON, MD-VA QUAD



CH-501

OLD MILL SWAMP FARM
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO
LOOKING EAST

1 OF 4



CH-501

OLD MILL SWAMP FARM
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SOUTH

2 OF 4



CH-501
OLD MILL SWAMP FARM
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING WEST

3 OF 4



CH-501

OLD MILL SWAMP FARM

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

10/98

MARYLAND SHPO

OUTBUILDINGS - LOOKING NORTH

4 OF 4