

CAPSULE SUMMARY

The Maryland Army and National Guard Armory (CH: 548)
14 West Hawthorne Road
Charles County, Maryland

The Maryland Army and National Guard Armory at 14 West Hawthorne Road was built ca. 1949. This building reflects national stylistic trends of the period, and specifically, the public building designs of the Works Progress Administration. The location of this armory in La Plata also reflects the town's local importance as the seat of Charles County's government, and its proximity to primary transportation routes. The property has been owned by the State of Maryland for use by the Military Department of the state since 1949.

Located on the north side of the street. The lot features a mowed lawn in the front, foundation plantings around the building, a paved parking area to the west, and an armored vehicle parking area to the rear. Built ca. 1949, the armory is two-stories high and eleven bays wide, with a rectangular footprint. The building rests on a solid, poured concrete foundation, and has 5-course American bond brick walls. The front portion of the building has a flat roof with a front parapet; the rear section is a gymnasium, and has an asphalt shingle, gambrel roof. A wide interior end brick chimney is located on the west elevation of the front part of the building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH:548

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Maryland Army and National Guard Armory
common/other name _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 14 West Hawthorne Road not for publication _____
city or town La Plata vicinity _____ state Maryland code MD
county Charles County code 17 zip code 20646

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

=====

4. National Park Service Certification N/A

=====

5. Classification

=====

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>2</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>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes _____ Name of Listing _____
No X

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

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DEFENSE Sub: Arms Storage

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: DEFENSE Sub: Arms Storage

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Modern

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation Solid: Poured Concrete
Roof Flat: Not Visible
Walls Masonry: Five-Course American Bond Brick
other Gambrel: Asphalt Shingles

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
The Maryland Army and National Guard Armory Inventory No. CH: 548
14 West Hawthorne Road Page 4
Charles County, Maryland

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Military

Period of Significance ca.1949

Significant Dates ca.1949

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Undefined

Architect/Builder Works Progress Administration (WPA)

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.)

Charles County Land and Will Records. Charles County Courthouse and the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland.

Maryland National Guard Armories. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination, 1980.

Rivoire, J. Richard. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1990.

Rose, Lisle A. *The Cold War Comes to Main Street: America in 1950*. Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1999

Short, C.W. and R. Stanley-Brown. *Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-1939, Volume 1*. New York, NY: Da Capo Press, Inc., reprinted 1986.

United State Congress. *National Defense Facilities Act of 1949*, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1949.

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 3 acres

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

The property at 14 West Hawthorne Road is designated as Parcel 5, Grid 10 as indicated on Map 108.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The building at 14 West Hawthorne Road has historically been associated with Parcel 5 since its construction ca. 1949.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title R. Weidlich, C. Novelli & S. Moffett, Architectural
Historians
organization EHT Traceries, Inc. date February 26, 2000
street & number 5420 Western Avenue telephone 301/656-5283
city or town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815
=====

12. Property Owner
=====

name National Guard Armory
street & number 14 West Hawthorne Road telephone _____
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646
=====

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 548

Section 7 Page 1

The Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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The Maryland Army and National Guard Armory at 14 West Hawthorne Road was constructed circa 1949. Located on the north side of the street, the armory is two-stories high and eleven bays wide, with a rectangular footprint. The building rests on a solid, poured concrete foundation, and has 5-course American bond brick walls. The main block of the building has a flat roof with parapets projecting from the limestone-clad central bays. These limestone-clad bays appear on each of the primary elevations, denoting the various entries into the building. The rear section of the building includes the gymnasium, and has an asphalt shingle, gambrel roof. A wide interior end brick chimney is located on the west elevation of the main block. The lot features a mowed lawn in the front, foundation plantings around the building, a paved parking area to the west, and an armored vehicle parking area to the rear.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION:

The façade, or the south elevation of the building, is eleven bays wide, and comprised of a two-story, seven bay main block flanked by one-story, two bay wide wings. The center bay projects out from the plane of the wall, and is further distinguished by limestone cladding, vertical contours, and the fact that it projects higher than the rest of the elevation to create the parapet. This bay contains a recessed main entrance, which holds a double-leaf, flush metal door. The second story of this bay features a compound, twelve-light metal window, with fixed lights, pivot lights, and awning lights within a single sash. The area between this window and the entrance below has a panel with fluting and arrow points carved in relief. The three bays on either side of the limestone bay feature the same type of metal windows, each symmetrically placed. Similarly, the one-story wings each contain two of the same type of metal windows.

The east elevation is comprised of the one story wing, the two story main block, and the gambrel-roofed gymnasium. The first and second stories each contain three metal windows like those of the façade. The gambrel end of the gymnasium has two rectangular vents.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 7 Page 2

The Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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The rear, or north elevation, of the building consists of one solid wall surface with a small three bay wide addition at the far eastern (left) end. The addition has three fixed/casement windows, while the main block has six irregularly-spaced fixed twelve-light metal windows with limestone sills.

The west elevation consists of the west end of the gymnasium, the main block of the building, and its one story wing. The end of the gymnasium is three bays wide, and is dominated by a limestone-clad entrance bay. Mirroring the entrance bay on the façade, this bay also projects higher than the rest of the elevation, projects outs slightly from the wall, has a fluted frieze, and also has a roll-up metal door. The one-story wing has a composite metal window, as described above, and a double-leaf metal door with louvers and lights. On the second story, the main block of the armory has two compound windows.

The interior of the building was not accessible for survey.

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

Behind the armory is a 1950s one-story, sixteen-bay wide garage. This building features brick construction, sixteen individual roll-up metal doors, and a flat parapet roof.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 548

Section 8 Page 1

The Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

=====

Built ca. 1949, the Maryland Army and National Guard Armory in Charles County reflects the national stylistic trends of the period, and specifically, the public building designs of the Works Progress Administration in the middle part of the 20th century. The location of this armory in La Plata also reflects the town's local importance as the seat of government in Charles County, and its proximity to major transportation routes. The property has been owned by the State of Maryland for use by the Military Department since 1949.

History

The National Guard is a volunteer military organization active in each state of the Union. This organization may be mobilized by either its home state or the Federal government. The Militia Act of 1792 stated that "every able-bodied free white male citizen between the ages of 18 and 45" was part of the Militia to serve as the nation's second line of defense. All the militia men were expected to provide their own uniforms and weapons and the individual states would try to provide the remaining equipment.

The Maryland Army National Guard has a deep-rooted history, dating back to 1634. Instrumental during the American Revolution, the Maryland National Guard fought at the Battle of Long Island in 1776. It also defended Baltimore during the War of 1812. After the war, the militia system in the United States began a slow, but steady decline, yet, returned to participate during the Mexican War and the Civil War.¹ The Maryland National Guard fought on both sides of the American Civil War.

The National Guard Association was established after the Civil War and the concept of militias had been transformed into the National Guard. The militia, comprised of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, is mobilized to respond to natural disasters, civil disorder, national emergency, and times of war. Although the organization has its history in colonial times, the militias did not officially adopt the term National Guard until the early 1900s. The Dick Act of 1903 officially established the National Guard and

¹ *Maryland National Guard Armories Multiple Property Nomination Form*, National Register of Historic Places, 1980.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 548

Section 8 Page 2

The Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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standardized its organization, structure, armaments, and discipline.² In 1916, the National Defense Act was passed to provide increased funding for the National Guards and to implement federal standards for officers and instructors. The Maryland National Guard played a critical role in the Meuse-Argonne offensive during World War I. The Guard's active role during and after World War I prompted the construction of armory buildings. The majority of the buildings in Maryland were constructed between 1913 and 1927 in reaction to the increase of public concern for military preparedness.

The Maryland National Guard were important participants in World War II, gaining recognition in their participation at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. The feeling of freedom, security and prosperity that had dominated the American view after the destruction of the Nazis and Japanese was short lived and soon turned to fear and paranoia.³ The end of the 1940s and the beginning of the Cold War ushered in the most dangerous time during America's history, the threat of nuclear war.

The closing moments of World War II had been the opening act of the Cold War with the detonation of the atomic bomb in Japan and the tightening grip of communism in Eastern Europe as the decade ended.⁴ The Soviet Union emerged as America's great enemy with the Iron Curtain falling over Eastern Europe and the struggle which would dominate the second half of the 20th century had begun. In response to these new threats that were on the horizon, Congress passed the National Defense Facilities Act of 1949. This act provided for "the construction, rehabilitation, expansions, and joint utilization of buildings, structures, utilities, and other facilities, including the acquisition of land, for the reserve components of the National Military establishment of the United States."⁵ According to testimony by Secretary of the Army, Kenneth Royall, "No war could be won -- in fact no war could really get under way -- without many trained civilian soldiers, and the

² Encarta® 98 Desk Encyclopedia © & © 1996-97 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

³ Rose, Lisle A. The Cold War Comes to Main Street: America in 1950, pg. 2.

⁴ Rose, pg. 4-5

⁵ *National Defense Facilities Act of 1949*, S.960, Eighty-First Congress, March 23, 1949.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 548

Section 8 Page 3

The Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Department of the Army fully realizes how dependent we are upon our Reserve components.”⁶

The National Guard reserves were considered vital to national security and La Plata's close proximity to Washington, D.C. was not overlooked. The Army acknowledged that there was a lack of adequate facilities for the National Guard units throughout the United States to provide year round training and this was crippling efforts to upgrade the Guard's position. The bill allowed for the construction or expansion of existing State and locally owned armories of the National Guard with the Federal government funding 75% of the total costs and the states providing the remainder 25%. The National Guard was an important component to national security and the need for updated and adequate facilities for the Guard was imperative.

With the advent of early modernism during the 1930s and 1940s, the classical influence in public building design began to wane. In an effort to purify and modernize architecture, ornament was stripped away, and traditional classical forms grew increasingly more abstract and stylized, sometimes vanishing altogether. Architectural designs by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) were characterized by simplicity of form, attention to proportion, increasingly shallow and incised relief carving, and broad, flat surfaces. Smooth stone cladding was used to create the clean and pure geometric forms which characterized the style, sometimes called the WPA Classic style, and also to achieve a greater sense of solidity and monumentality. These qualities can be seen in the La Plata armory, with its massive stone clad entrance bays. Ornament has been reduced to stylized bands of fluting, carved in shallow relief above the entrances. Another characteristic of Works Progress Administration public buildings was the incorporation of parallel vertical lines into the design. A feature borrowed from Art Deco skyscrapers, these vertical lines provided an upward visual thrust that created a greater sense of monumentality, even in buildings that were not monumental in scale.

Despite the close of the Cold War, the National Guard has continued to be involved in major military conflicts which have faced the United States. More recently, they were called to serve in Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Operation Joint Endeavor

⁶ *National Defense Facilities Act of 1949*, S.960, Eighty-First Congress, March 23, 1949.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
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Section 8 Page 4

The Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
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in Bosnia-Herzegovina.⁷ In addition to responding in times of war, the Maryland Army National Guard serves the local Maryland communities in a variety of ways. They provided emergency service during the blizzard of 1996 and the floods, which followed shortly after. Furthermore, the Guard provides family counseling through the About Face Program, supports the Maryland Youth Corps through the ChalleNGe Program, has a Distance Learning Network that provides college courses via video teleconferencing and e-mail, and conducts the Scholastic Games, the largest indoor track event in the state. Promoting community service, they sponsor Explorer Scouts and Boy Scouts, distribute toys through the Toys for Tots program, conduct Red Cross Blood Drives, provide emergency funding through the Soldiers and Airmen Emergency Relief Fund, and participate in the Terrapin Beach Clean-Up.⁸ The La Plata Armory is home to the 121st Engineering Battalion, Company C.

National Register Evaluation:

The building at 14 West Hawthorne Road is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. Research has revealed that the armory's construction was related to the military build-up at the beginning of the Cold War and concerns of national security in light of the coming Nuclear Age and the growing strength of communism. The armory's location in La Plata, a mere thirty miles from Washington, D.C., served as an important component for both peacetime and wartime activities. In addition, the building provides an example of WPA architecture, typical of the mid-20th century design produced for the National Guard (Criterion C). Preliminary research has not, however, revealed any association with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). There is no evidence that the property is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D).

7 "The History of the Maryland Army National Guard," www.marylandguard.com/army-grd/br-hstry.html, accessed November, 22 1999.

8 "The Maryland Army National Guards Serves Maryland and the Nation," www.marylandguard.com/army-grd/br-serve.html, accessed November, 22 1999.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 548

The Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

county and state

=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Period (s):

Modern Period (1930-present)

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):

Architecture, Landscape, and
Community Planning
Military

RESOURCE TYPE(S)

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function (s): DEFENSE/Arms Storage

Known Design Source: Works Progress Administration (WPA)

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH: 548

The Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

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Chain of Title:

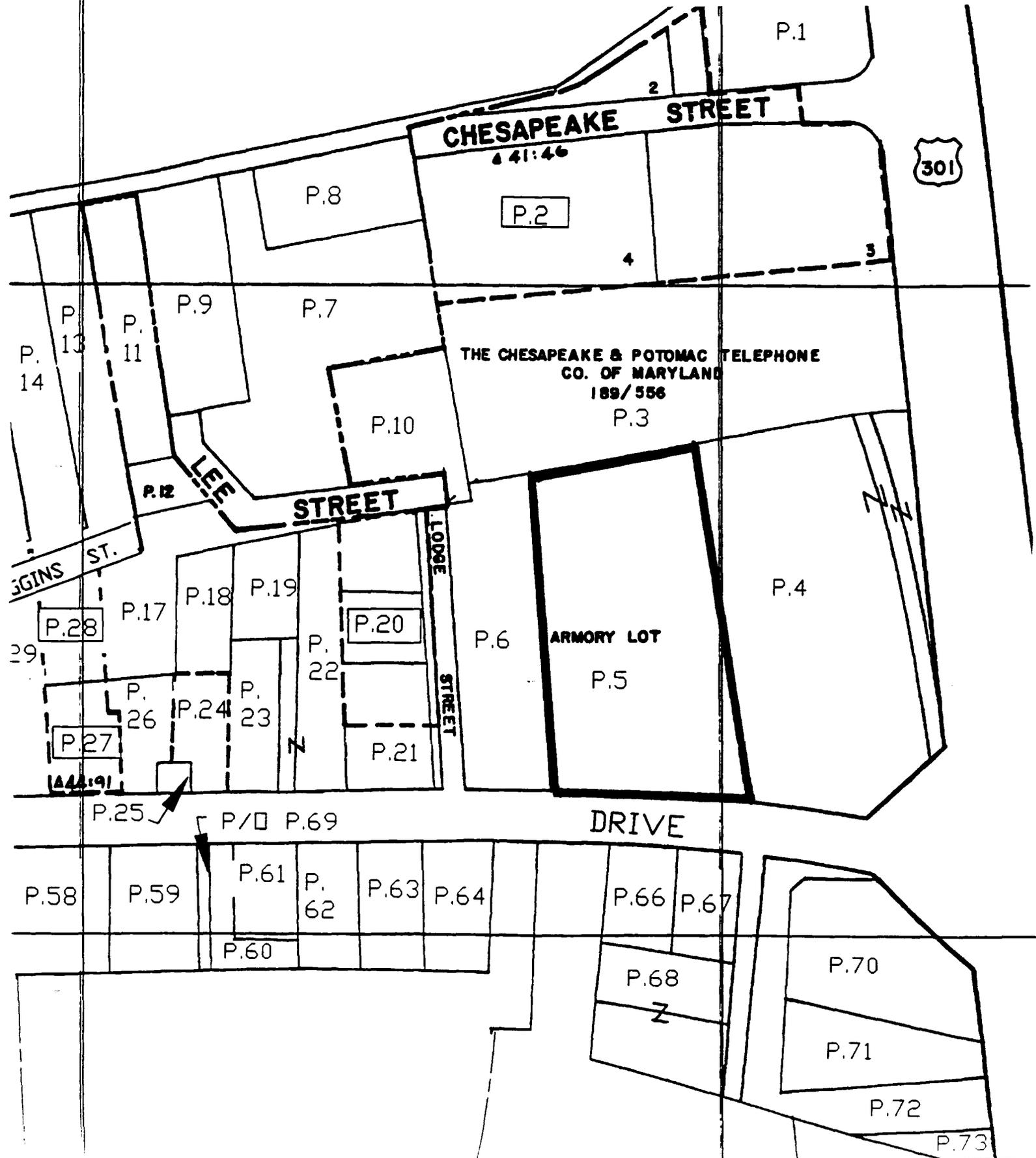
August 28, 1902: Adrian Posey, Trustee to Mary A. Posey
Land Records of Charles County
Liber BGS 13 Folio 147

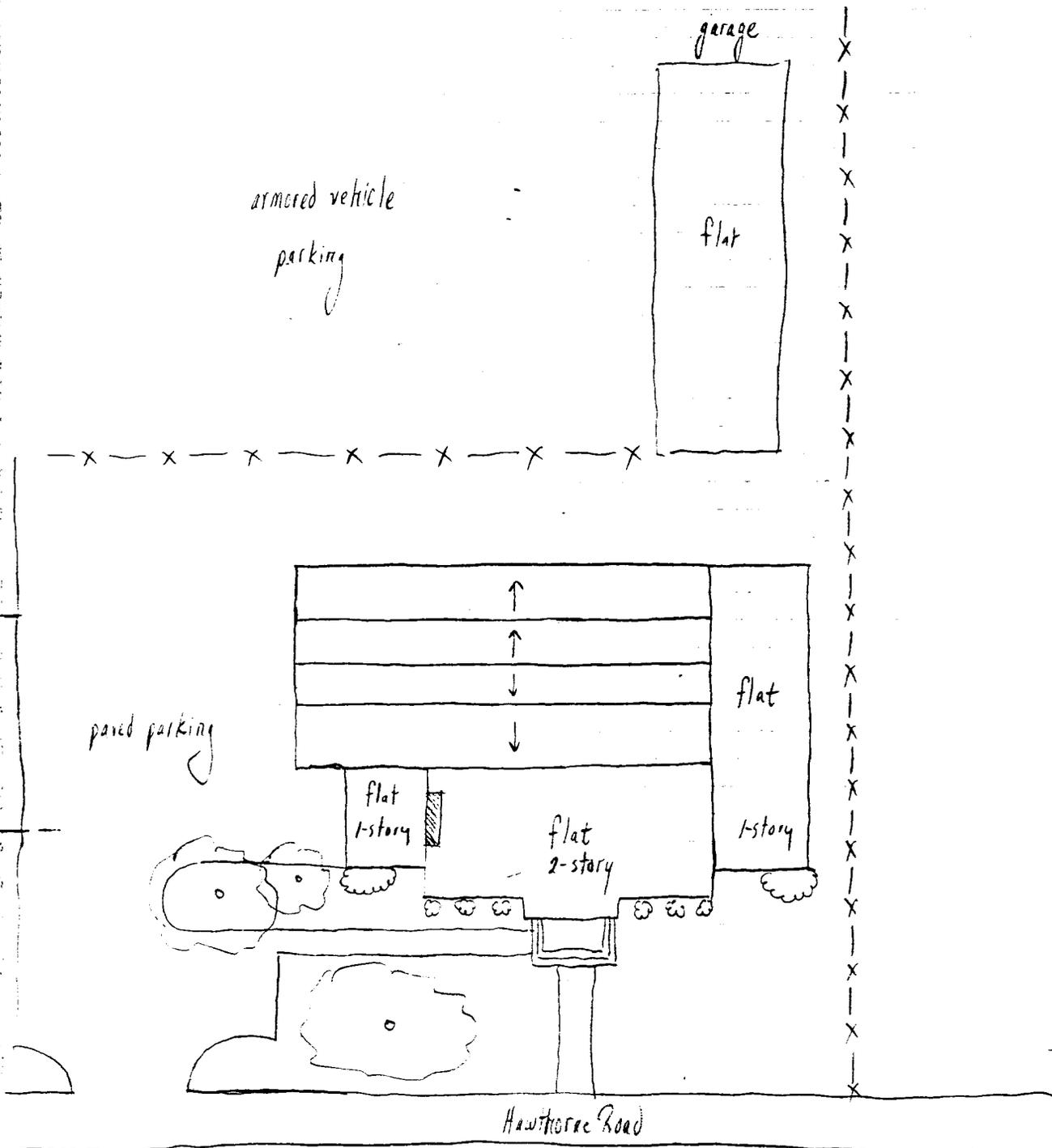
October 5, 1937: Mary Posey Turner devised to Mary R. Turner,
Katherine E. Posey, and Inez Posey Gillespie

June 17, 1949: Mary R. and William C. Turner, Katherine E.
Posey, and Ines P. Gillespie to State of
Maryland for the use of the Military
Department of the State of Maryland
Land Records of Charles County
Liber 88 Folio 578

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <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 <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
Reviewer, OPS: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>4/12/99</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>8/14/00</u>

CH: 548 Maryland Army and National
Guard Armory
14 West Hawthorne Road
Charles County, MD
Parcel 5, Grid 10, Map 108
N ↑





14 West Hawthorne Road CH:548

Charles County
Maryland

Resource Sketch Map 1999
Not Drawn to Scale



5955 CRAIN HIGHWAY
CH-544

HARFORD STREET/HAWTHORNE
DRIVE SURVEY DISTRICT
CH-545

1002 WASHINGTON AVENUE
CH-546

WASHINGTON AVENUE
SURVEY DISTRICT
CH-547

14 WEST HAWTHORNE
ROAD
CH-548

6365 CRAIN HIGHWAY
CH-549

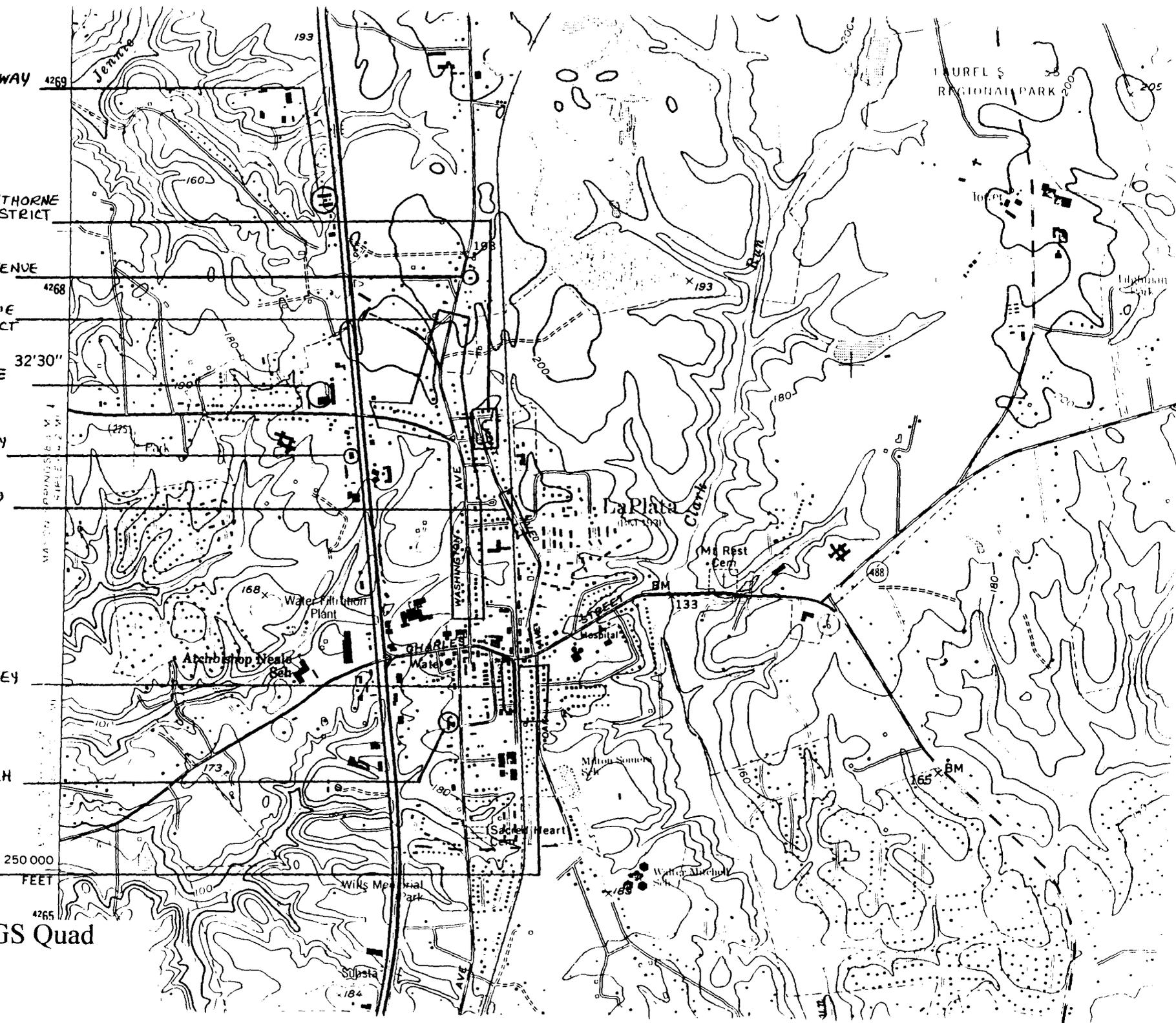
LENT AVENUE SURVEY
DISTRICT
CH-550

MAPLE AVENUE SURVEY
DISTRICT
CH-551

SACRED HEART CHURCH
CH-552

OAK STREET SURVEY
DISTRICT
CH-553

La Plata USGS Quad





CH:548

K W HAWTHORNE ROAD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southwest corner

1 of 4



CH:548

1A W HAWTHORNE ROAD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southeast corner

2 of 4



2H:548

1A WEST HAWTHORNE ROAD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES
JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

northwest corner

3 of 4



CH:548

1A W HAWTHORNE ROAD
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

JUNE 1999

MD SHPO

southwest corner

7 of 4