

**Aquilla Turner House**

**circa 1850**

**CH-604**

**Bryantown vic.**

**Public**

The Aquilla Turner House, circa 1850, is a 2 ½ story, five bay single pile frame I-house with an attached 1 ½ story frame dependency situated on a 4.674 acre parcel on Old Leonardtown Road between Waldolf and Bryantown. The main block is flanked by slender brick exterior chimneys, in contrast to the massive exterior brick chimney attached to the south wall of the dependency. Although the original doors and windows have been replaced, the essential form remains intact. Despite alterations, the dwelling is significant as one of a handful of surviving examples of a mid-19th century center-passage I-house in Charles County.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-604

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Aquilla Turner House  
 other Aquilla Turner House

### 2. Location

street and number 13000 Zekiah Drive  not for publication  
 city, town Waldorf  vicinity  
 county Charles

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Grace Bretheren Church  
 street and number 13000 Zekiah Drive telephone 301-645-0407  
 city, town Waldorf state MD zip code 20601

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 25-14-226  
 city, town LaPlata liber 1807 folio 212

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic		2
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
			0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-604

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The Aquilla Turner House, circa 1830, is a 2 1/2 story, single-pile, center passage frame dwelling with an attached 1 1/2 story frame dependency that is currently situated on a 4.674 acre parcel on Old Leonardtown Road between Waldolf and Bryantown. The main block is flanked by slender brick exterior chimneys, in contrast to the massive exterior brick chimney attached to the south wall of the dependency. The property is currently owned by Grace Brethern Church and is located on a rise above Route 5 facing west. The dwelling is approached by a driveway off Zekiah Drive that opens onto a large asphalt parking area at the rear of the house. Non-contributing resources include a late twentieth century gamrel roof garage and an early twentieth century smokehouse.

Due to later alterations, much of the historic materials of the dwelling have been obscured or lost. The entire building is currently clad in vinyl siding; the window configuration has been altered, and most of the windows are modern replacements. Asphalt shingles cover the side gable roof which meets the eave wall with an enclosed and reclad cornice. The original five-course American bond brick foundation supports the frame construction.

The dwelling's façade faces west and includes five assymmetrically alligned bays. The current door is not original, nor are the nine 2/2 light double-hung sash windows found in the main block. A one story concrete base screened-in shed porch extends the full width of the building and is clad with asphalt shingles.

Moving clockwise, the northern elevation includes a single first floor replacement window near the façade wall and paired attic windows flanking the chimney. The 4/4 light wood sash double-hung attic windows are possibly original.

The eastern elevation first floor is obscured by a modern enclosed shed addition. The second story fenestration mirrors that found on façade and is characterized by the assymetrical placement of windows. These windows are also modern replacements.

The southern elevation is largely obscured by the kitchen dependency. An exterior brick chimney with a corbelled cap is flanked by a pair of possibly original attic story windows of 4/4 light composition.

The one story dependency is characterized by a massive brick chimney found on the southern elevation. A single attic story window is found to the right of the chimney with 4/4 light composition. Access to the chimney is provided by a pent covered porch next to the chimney. The façade consists of a set of twentieth century paired windows near the main block. Two additional modern replacement windows are found to the south. The rear or eastern elevation is obscured by a modern porch enclosure of the porch.

The floorplan consists of a center passage flanked by two rooms on either side. While the first floor seems to have retained much of its original plan, the second story has had significant alterations including the addition of partition walls and two bathrooms. Interior detail includes a single stair with scroll-sawn end decoration, stair panelling on the first and second floor, two part door and window trim, original six panel doors and two high style late Federal mantels.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-604

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	Circa 1830	<b>Architect</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	Circa 1830	<b>Builder</b>	Unknown

Evaluation for:

National Register       Maryland Register       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Aquilla Turner House is a rare surviving example of a center-passage dwelling in Charles County that was constructed during the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Since its formal establishment in 1658, well until the mid twentieth century, Charles County has relied on tobacco as its major cash crop. Despite the disruptions of the American Revolution, several years of depressed tobacco prices, and the War of 1812, Charles County continued to grow. During the early nineteenth century the County experienced a period of economic stability. Although competition from other tobacco-growing regions intensified during the first half of the nineteenth century, the large-scale planters seem to have maintained their economic stability. By 1820, most of the out migration caused by the depredations of war and the inability of small tenant farmers to prosper had ceased. Although tobacco prices became unstable, and remained so throughout the early nineteenth century the wealthiest of the landowners in the county remained prosperous. Many diversified their interests, investing in corn or wheat cultivation or in commercial industries, such as milling, fishing, and commerce.

Through the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, Charles County continued to thrive on its agricultural and growing commercial trade. Although census records reveal no significant population growth during these years, there are no indications of economic depression. However, the relative calm of county life was disrupted by the initial rumblings of dispute that would lead to the Civil War. Charles County was sensitively located between the northern or Unionist states and the southern, secessionist states. Although, as a state, Maryland voted to support the Union, Charles County maintained its Confederate sympathies throughout the war.

This era of prosperity is reflected in the County's built environment by the great number of buildings constructed during the first half of the century. The overwhelming majority of these dwelling were late Federal, side passage buildings most often with at least one frame dependency flanking the gable wall. The center passage dwelling was somewhat less common in Charles County until the late 1800's when the form began to appear with decorative center gables. Nearby Wiltshire Plains (CH-292) after extensive alterations in 1857 is one of a small number of surviving center passage structures that date from the mid-nineteenth century.

The Aquilla and Kitty Ann Turner House was originally associated with several adjacent

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-604

Name Aquilla Turner House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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tracts consisting of over 300 acres known as "Part of Jordan", "Zekiah Manor", "Twice Bought" and "Charity". This property followed a matrilineal line descending from Jane Queen Barker to her granddaughter Kitty Ann Turner in 1830, to daughter Jane E. Robinson after 1860, and then finally to Jane's sisters and subsequent heirs Kitty Ann McPherson.

Kitty Ann Turner was married to Aquilla Turner, Clerk of Court for Charles County. Aquilla Turner's will of 1860 refers to the house "where I now dwell" which he gave as a life estate to his second wife Catherine Turner. After her death it was to descend to his daughter Jane E. Robinson.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-604

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 4.674  
Acreage of historical setting 4.674  
Quadrangle name Hughesville Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 5550 Leonardtown Road is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 25, Grid 14, Parcel 226.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	11/30/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20646

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The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-604

Section 8 Page 1

Aquilla Turner House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

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Chain of title:

January 25, 1830

William R. Barker to Kitty Ann Turner, daughter. Land deeded to my mother Jane [Queen?] Barker from Thomas C. Reeves. "Part of Jordan"; and a tract patented by Hezekiah Reeves, "Twice Bought" houses and buildings.  
**IB 19 Folio 8**

March 9, 1860

Last will and testament of Aquilla Turner.  
A- to wife Catherine S. Turner and then daughter Jane E. Robinson. Where I now dwell.  
B-daughter Kitty Ann (McPherson) ("Jordan", "Maidstone", and land from Davis').  
C- son John Thomas Turner, part of Jordan tract, part of Beaver Dam, part of Zekiah Manor  
**JS 17 Folio 321**

January 1, 1889

A- Jane E. Robinson and William T. Robinson her husband of Prince Georges County to John Thomas Turner. Land upon which Aquilla Turner resided at the time of his death and which the late Catherine Turner resided at the time of her death 300a. Which Jane E. Robinson inherited from her mother Kitty Ann (Barker?), first wife of Aquilla Turner.  
**JST No.2 Folio 413**

circa 1895

A-C John Thomas Turner, died interstate, next of kin McPherson's

circa 1900

B-Kitty Ann (Turner) McPherson died interstate and left as next of kin McPherson's

July 21, 1911

A-B-C-William T. McPherson acquired undivided interest from Jane B. McPherson and Edward A. T. McPherson.  
**HCC 23 Folio 389**

March 6, 1920

William T. and Mary C. McPherson. To John G. and Martha E. Jameson.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-604

Section 8 Page 2

Aquilla Turner House  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

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**(A)First-several contiguous lots on both sides of the county road from Waldorf to Bryantown bordering Zekiah Swamp. "Jordan", "Part of Jordan", "Zekiah Manor", "Twice Bought", "Charity", 300a. Acquired from John Thomas Turner, property which was devised to Jane E. Robinson as remaining portion of her inheritance from her mother Kitty Ann Turner, nee Barker.**

**(B)Second-"Part of Jordan", "Maidstone" 29 1/4 a.**

**(C)Third- East side of road "Part of Jordan", "Part of Beaver Dam", "Part of Zekiah Manor" 200a.**

**Excepting 150a to Henry A. Bean WMA 34 Folio 189**

**Totalling 330a.**

**WMA 36 Folio 198**

September 22, 1972

Aubrey B. Jameson and Alice I. Jameson, heirs to Giordano, et al. 262.6829 a.

**Liber 263 Folio 558**

Date "?"

Gilbert R. Giordano, Gary R. Alexander, Vernon G. Haas and Patrick Mahoney to Iradj Sadechian. 262.6829 a.

**Liber 362 Folio 256**

December 1, 1986

Iradj Sadechian to Lewis and Barbara Vest. Save and excepting Parcel 1, 2 and A.

**Liber 1177 Folio 415**

September 9, 1988

Lewis R. Vest and Barbara M. to James and Julia Merkle. \$160,000. 262.6829 a.

**Liber 1329 Folio 313**

October 4, 1991

James E. Merkel and Julia L. to Fabio and Catherine Lombardo. Lot #35 Section 1 "Zekiah Valley"

**Liber 1592 Folio 104**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-604

Section 9 Page 1

Aquilla Turner House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

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**Major Bibliographic References:**

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.  
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.  
LaPlata, MD. Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/12/99

North arrow:



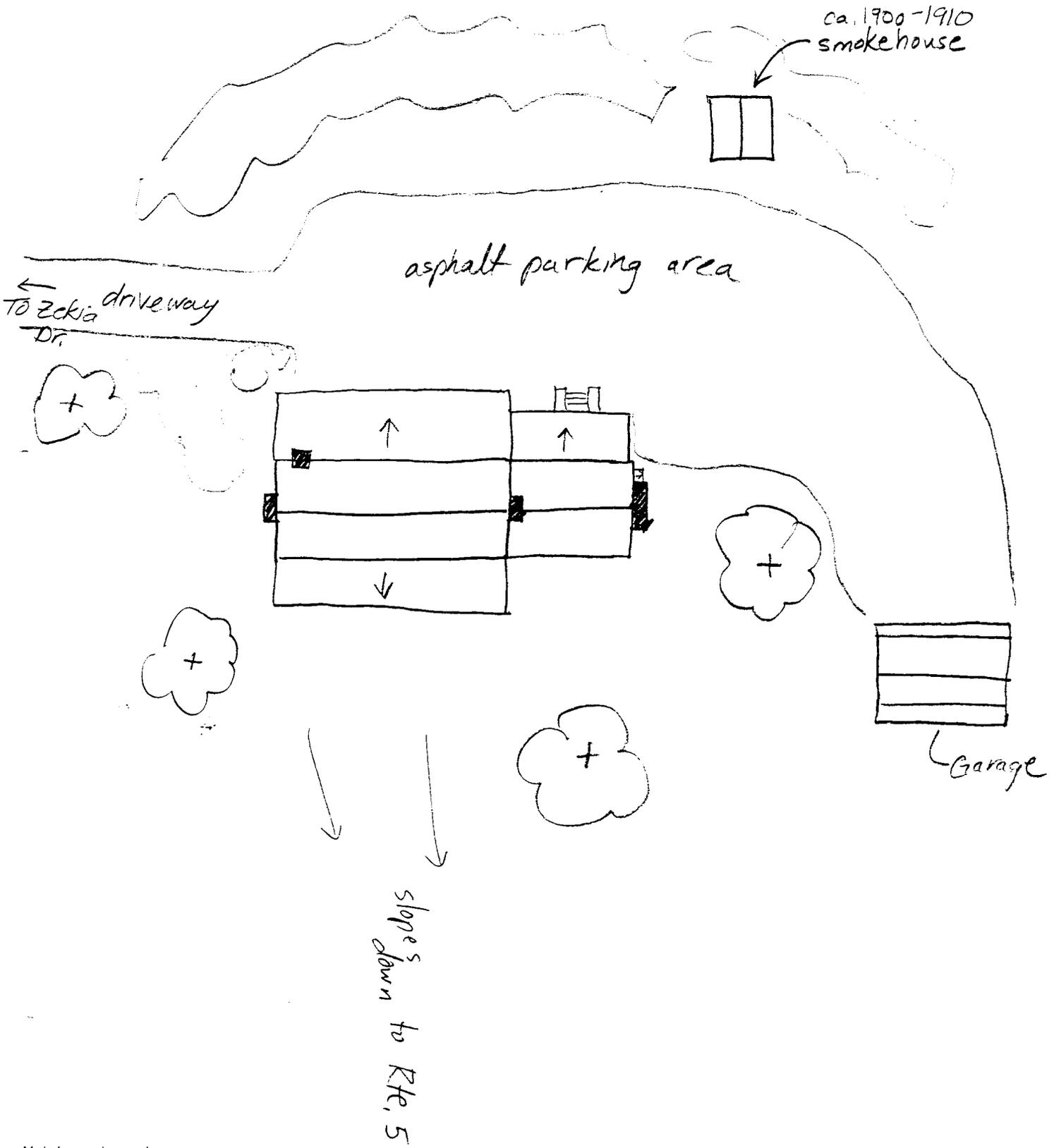
Name: Aquilla? Kitty Ann Turner House

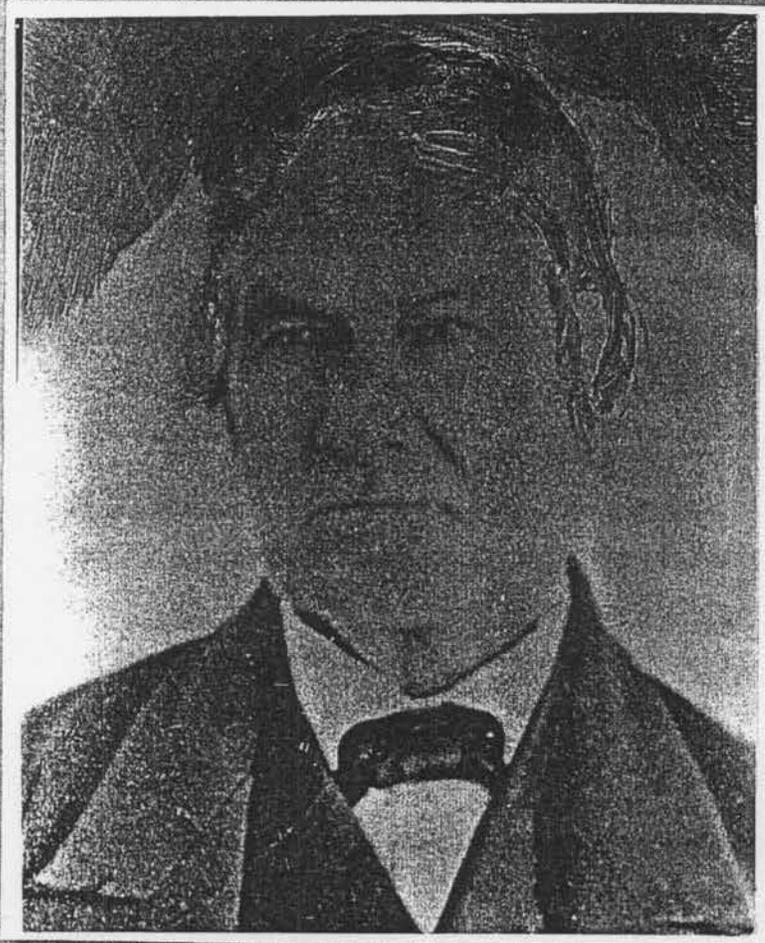
Address: 5550 Leonardtown Rd,

CH - 604

Charles County, Maryland

Waldorf  Vicinity



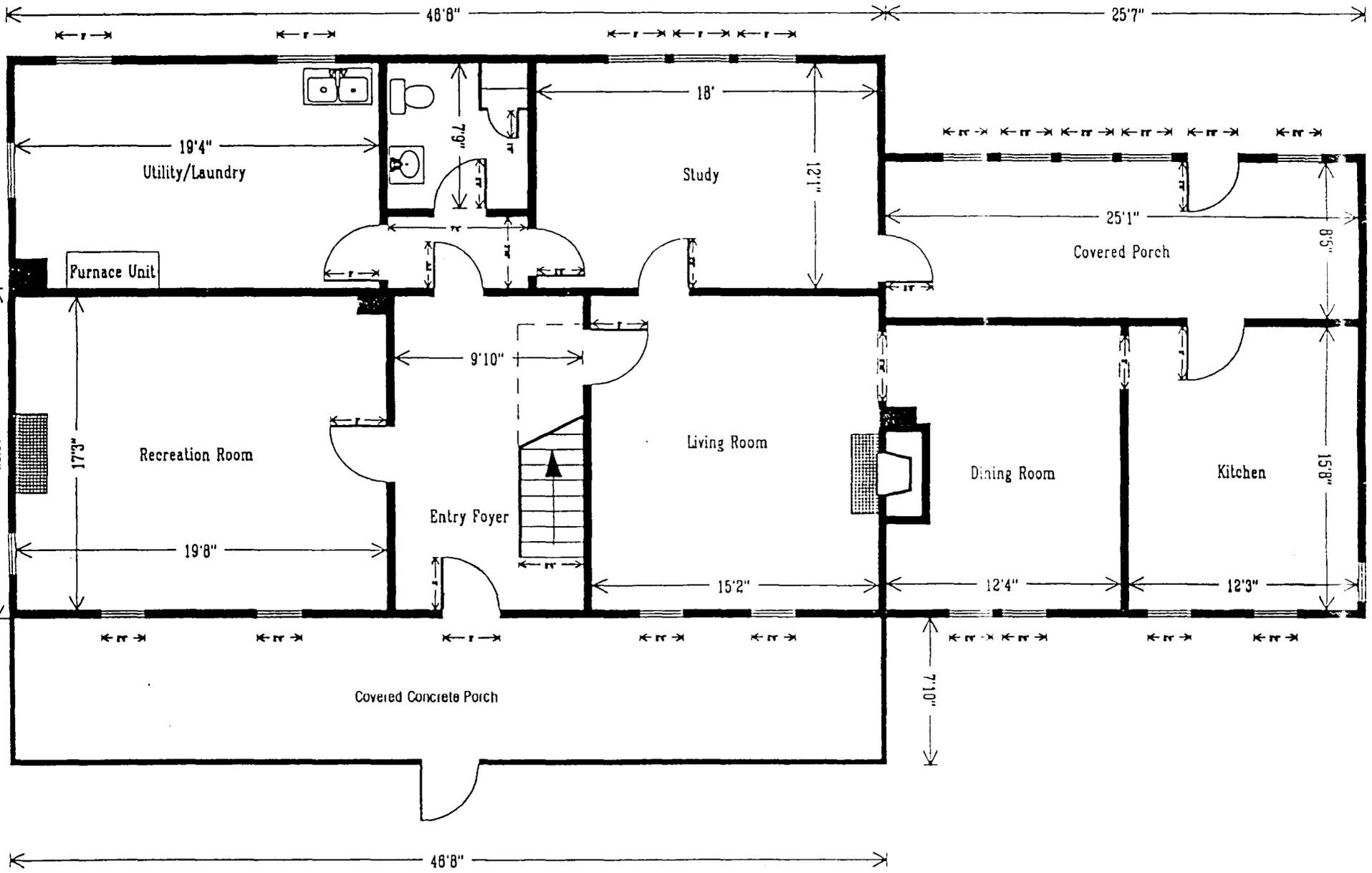


Aquida Turner, 1786-1863  
original owner of property  
"Zekiah Manor"

SOURCE : GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH  
CH-604

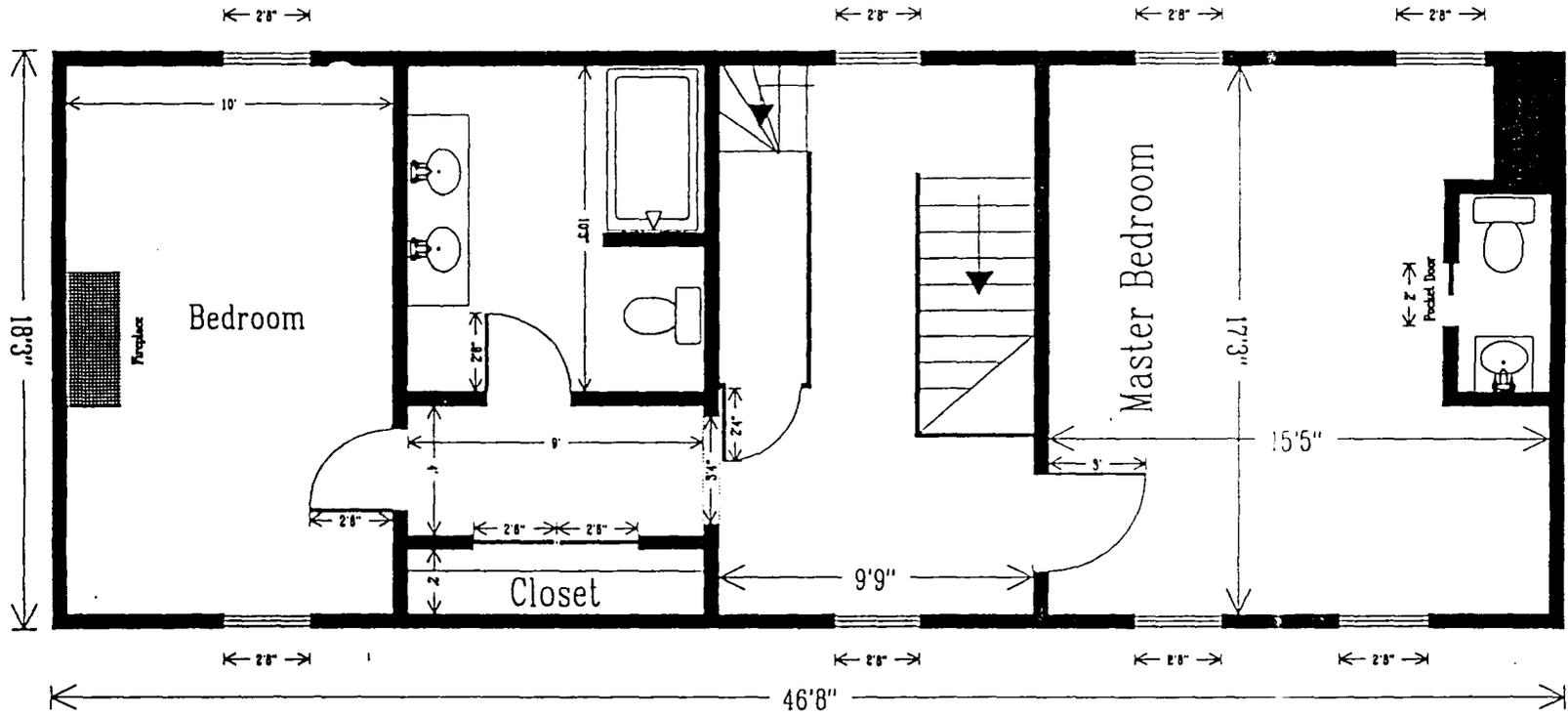
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ARCHITECT UNKNOWN



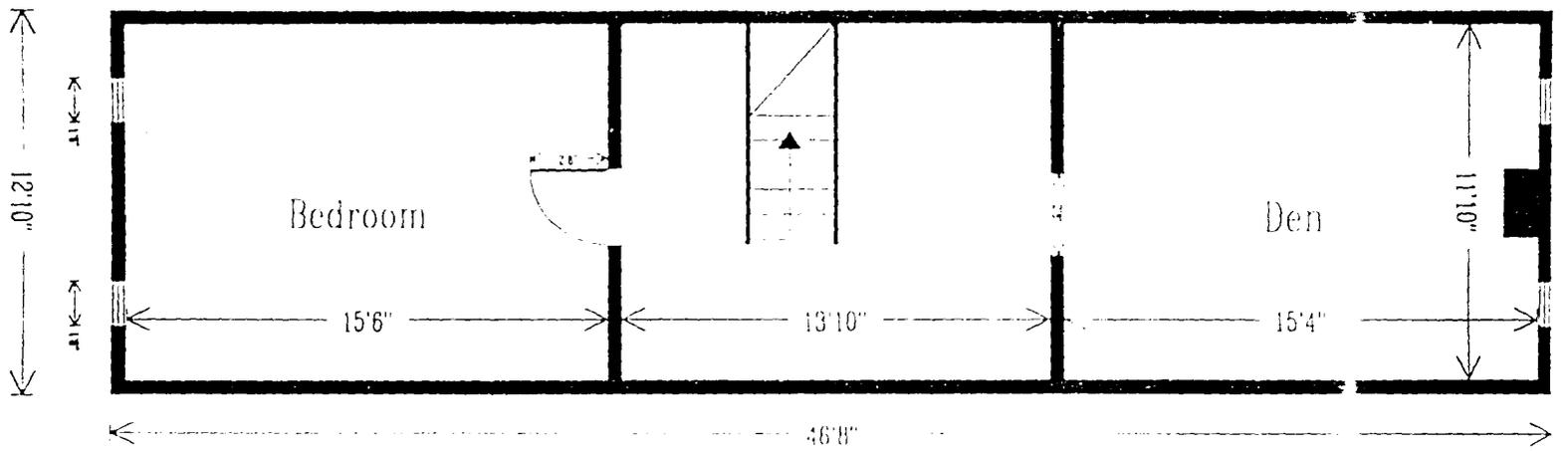
CH-604

SOURCE: GBC ARCHITECT UNKNOWN

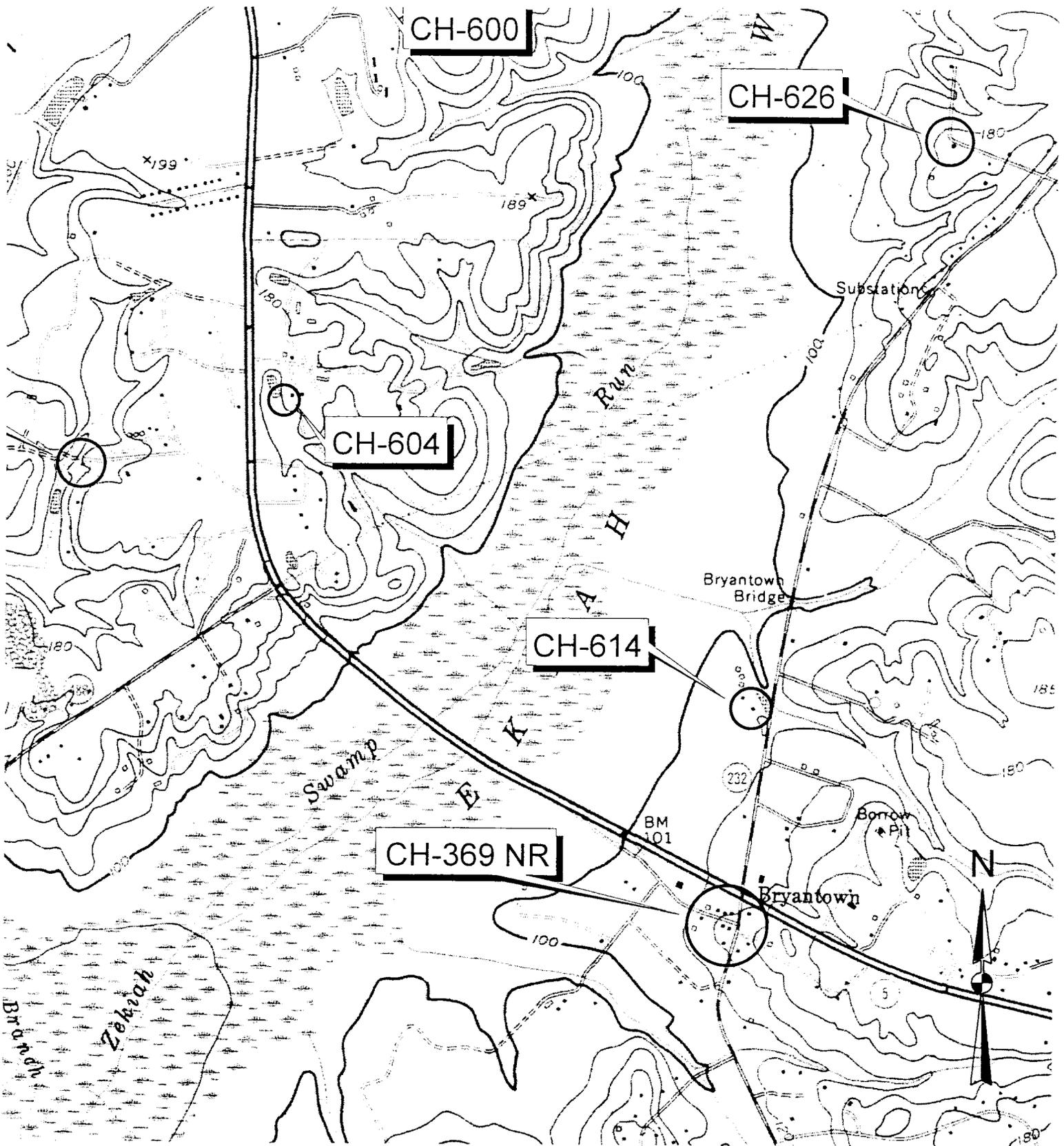


CH-604

SOURCE: GARAGE BRETHHEREN CHURCH  
ARCHITECT UNKNOWN



CH-604



Aquilla and Kitty Ann Turner House  
CH-604  
Charles County, MD  
Hughesville, MD Quad



CH-604  
TURNER HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH  
11/99  
MARYLAND SHPO  
WEST ELEVATION  
1 of 6



CH-604

TURNER HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

11/99

MARYLAND SHPO

NORTH ELEVATION

2 OF 6



CH-604  
TURNER HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH  
11/99  
MARYLAND SHPO  
LOOKING NE

3 of 6



CH 604  
TURNER HOUSE  
CHARLES CO. MD  
K.G. SMITH

11/99

MD SHPO  
NORTH ELEVATION, CHIMNEY

4 OF 6



CH-604  
TURNER HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
K.G. SMITH

11/99

MARYLAND SHPO  
SMOKEHOUSE, LOOKING SE

5 OF 6



CH-604  
TURNER HOUSE  
CHARLES CO. MD  
11/99  
K.G. SMITH  
MD SITPO  
GARAGE, LOOKING SW

6 of 6