

**Joseph & Nellie Lyon House**  
**CH-629**  
**Mason Springs**  
**Private**

**Circa 1880; 1930**

Built in three stages, the Joseph & Nellie Lyon House, in its current form consists of a two-story front gable and wing structure with an overall L-plan. The south wing was constructed around 1880, using balloon framing techniques. This wing features an exterior brick chimney resting on a stone foundation along the west wall. The frame stands on brick piers with a brick curtain. Around 1930 the cross-gable north wing was added and shortly afterwards a rear one-story ell was attached. The Joseph & Nellie Lyon House is a good example of the simple, often unadorned dwellings constructed in Charles County during the Reconstruction Era.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-629

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

historic Joseph and Nellie Lyon House

other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number 5165 Mason Springs Road  not for publication

city, town Indian Head  vicinity

county Charles

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

name Rebecca Harmon and Robert Nolan

street and number P.O. Box 16 Mt. Victoria telephone Unlisted

city, town Mt. Victoria state MD zip code 20661

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 20 p. 289

city, town LaPlata liber 1285 folio 483

### 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 type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>0</u>	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-629

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input 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.

At first glance, the Joseph and Nellie Lyon House appears to be a turn-of-the-century vernacular Victorian front-gable and wing farmhouse. However, recent renovations have revealed the buildings much more complex history. Currently, the two-story, single-pile frame dwelling has an L-plan footprint with a one-story shed porch in the interior of the L. A one-story shed addition extends from the rear elevation and is two bays in length. Located on a narrow, open eleven acre parcel fronting Mason Springs Road, the house sits atop a rise which gently slopes downward on either side of the dwelling. Sharing the site are three outbuildings a frame shed, concrete block shed, and a small barn located at some distance from the house.

The house faces east and was constructed in three stages, beginning with a single-pile, two-story structure now comprising the southernmost end of the structure. The gable-end fronts Mason Spring Road to the east, opposite a large, stepped exterior brick chimney on the west elevation. This portion of the dwelling was likely constructed around 1890 and includes a balloon frame. The original sills and downbraces were hand hewn but have been recently replaced due to severe deterioration. A tin roof lies under the current asphalt shingles. Most nails attaching the sill to the studs were large modern wire nails, although a few cut nails were found. The wooden frame is currently sheathed in asbestos shingles. Sections of the underlying material is visible and consist of flush horizontal planks.

The front elevation includes single first and second story 6/6 windows. The south elevation includes three bays with symmetrical fenestration. A replacement door is centered between the bays and sheltered by a modest shed porch. The rear elevation is dominated by the large chimney. The north elevation also includes symmetrical fenestration although the first floor has been obscured by a full-width, shed-roof porch. A door enters onto the porch near the façade, and a window occupies the center bay. The easternmost bay is obscured by the later addition, but likely included an exterior door. This bay now serves as a passageway between the two additions. The second story includes two bays. The third bay, which presumably held a window, now serves as a passageway into the second story of the addition.

The interior of this wing has a simple 2-room plan with a center enclosed staircase. While the walls were originally plastered, during a later alteration the plaster was removed and early wallboard was added. Today an additional layer of drywall is present.

The second floor, which has been partitioned into two rooms with closets was originally open.

The chimney includes two flues and two bricked-over fireboxes, one for each of the first and second stories.

After the second World War a side gable wing was attached to the original structure. At this time the earlier dwelling was extensively renovated to resemble the new wing. While the earlier structure has a brick pier foundation with a brick curtain, the new addition has a continuous concrete block foundation. Platform framing is used in place of the earlier balloon framing and the L-shaped shed porch was likely constructed at this time. Some time after this wing was completed, a final ell addition extended the first floor rear wall. Evidence for its later construction is

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Joseph and Nellie Lyon House

Continuation Sheet

Number \_\_\_\_ 7\_ Page 1

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found in the asbestos siding behind the addition wall.

The addition's first floor front elevation includes a door near the north wall, and a window toward the south. Above this is a single window centered in the second story. The gable wall on the north elevation includes single centered first and second story windows. The rear elevation includes two centered second-story windows. Two windows are situated in a shallow rear ell.

The porch has a shed roof supported by square wooden posts. The porch foundation is of concrete block infilled with soil and gravel. All windows consist of 6/6 light double-hung wood sashes and appear to date from the 1940's.

Two early or original doors survive and consist of two rows of three, square lights above four square panels.

### OUTBUILDINGS

The frame shed has a front gable orientation, and rests on wooden posts. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the walls are sheathed in asbestos composition shingles. Single 9-light casement windows are found on either side of the eave walls.

The concrete block shed is also a front gable structure with a deteriorated asphalt shingle roof and a recent lean-to addition.

The barn sits some distance from the house and rests on top of an opposite rise. It is a front gable structure, facing south with a metal roof.

To the west of this barn, near the main road is the site of a larger barn that has recently collapsed.

The landscape reveals evidence of fencelines, suggesting that this property was used for grazing purposes.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-629

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	politics/government	
<input checked="" 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>	c. 1890;1945	<b>Architect</b>	Unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	c. 1890;1945	<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 Joseph and Nellie Lyon House is historically significant as an example of late-19th century vernacular architecture in Charles County. The historic landscape surrounding the dwelling is very well-preserved, adding to the sites overall significance.

In 1893 Margaret G. Green and Josephine E. Kendrick sold to their sister Ellen A. Lyon 77 acres called Hopewell, adding to the approximately eight acres deeded to Ellen by her mother, Mary Maddox. The last will and testament of Joseph and Nellie Lyon written in 1945 indicate two dwellings found in the immediate vicinity. The first was the dwelling house then in the possession of their son Ernest Eugene occupied by him and his family. The Ernest E. Lyon House lie on the right hand side of the road leading from Pisgah to Masons Springs (CH-095).

Their daughter, Nellie A. Medley and her children were given all the land on the left side of the road including all the buildings, reserving to son Joseph Theodore his peaceful personal use of the bedroom in our home.

According to the Charles County Property Tax records a building was constructed on the property in 1930, although architectural evidence does not support such a date. The property eventually descended to Nellie A. Medley's daughter, Grace E. Hall, in 1976, and then to its current owner in the mid-1980's.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-629

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 11.2  
Acreage of historical setting 11.2  
Quadrangle name Indian Head Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 5165 Mason Springs Road has historically been associated with Tap Map 20, Grid 18 Parcel 289.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Dept.	date	10/31/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state	MD
		zipcode	20646

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-629

Section 8 Page 1

Joseph and Nellie Lyon House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

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Chain of title:

- August 6, 1883      Lucretia A. Maddox to Margaret A. Maddox, 8 a. where Margaret A. Mattox formerly resided. \$100. "Hopewell"  
**BGS 6 Folio 539**
- July 8, 1885      Margaret A. Maddox to Ellen A. Lyon. Part of a tract or parcel of land bounded on the North and west by land of Mrs. Stoddard and on the south and east by the public road...excepting the lot now occupied by James D. Maddox, the said lot to be held during his life and at his death to revert back to Ellen A. Lyon as her portion of my real estate called Hopwell. 8 a. more or less.  
**BGS 6 Folio 163**
- August 4, 1942      Last will and testament of Joseph W. Lyon and NellieA. Lyon, his wife.  
1<sup>st</sup>- to Joseph Theodore Lyon and Ernest Eugene Lyon our sons all the land which we now possess on the right hand side of the road leading from Pisgah to Mason Springs to be equally divided between them by a line extending in an easterly direction and as nearly a right angle as practiceable. Joseph Theodore to have the part lying nearer Mason Springs, and Ernest Eugene the part lying near Pisgah in order that Ernest Eugene may retain his undisputed possession and ownership of the dwelling house and premises now occupied by him with his family.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>-to daughter Nellie A. Medley and her three children Grace, Mary and Joseph all land on the left hand side of the road with all the buildings...reserving to our son Joseph Theodore his peaceful personal use of the bedroom in our home which he usually occupied when at home with us and the furniture now therein.....**  
**WB 22 Folio 480**
- February 5, 1976      Grace E. Hall, personal representative of the estate of Mary G. Medley, to Grace E. Hall and Joseph F.H. Medley.  
Being the same devised by item second of the last will and testament of Nellie A. Ryon, also known as Ellen A. Lyon, and Joseph W. Lyon to Nellie A. Medley also known as Margaret E. Medley and to her three children, Grace Medley, Mary Medley and Joseph Medley.  
**Liber 424 Folio 137**
- February 10, 1976      Joseph F.H. Medley to Grace E. Hall.  
All that tract of land situated on the west side of route 425 leading from Pisgah to Mason Springs containing by estimation ten acres.  
**Liber 425 Folio 103**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-629

Section 9 Page 1

Joseph and Nellie Lyon House

name of property

Charles County, Maryland

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.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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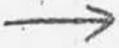
Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

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

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

Date: 11/2000

North arrow:



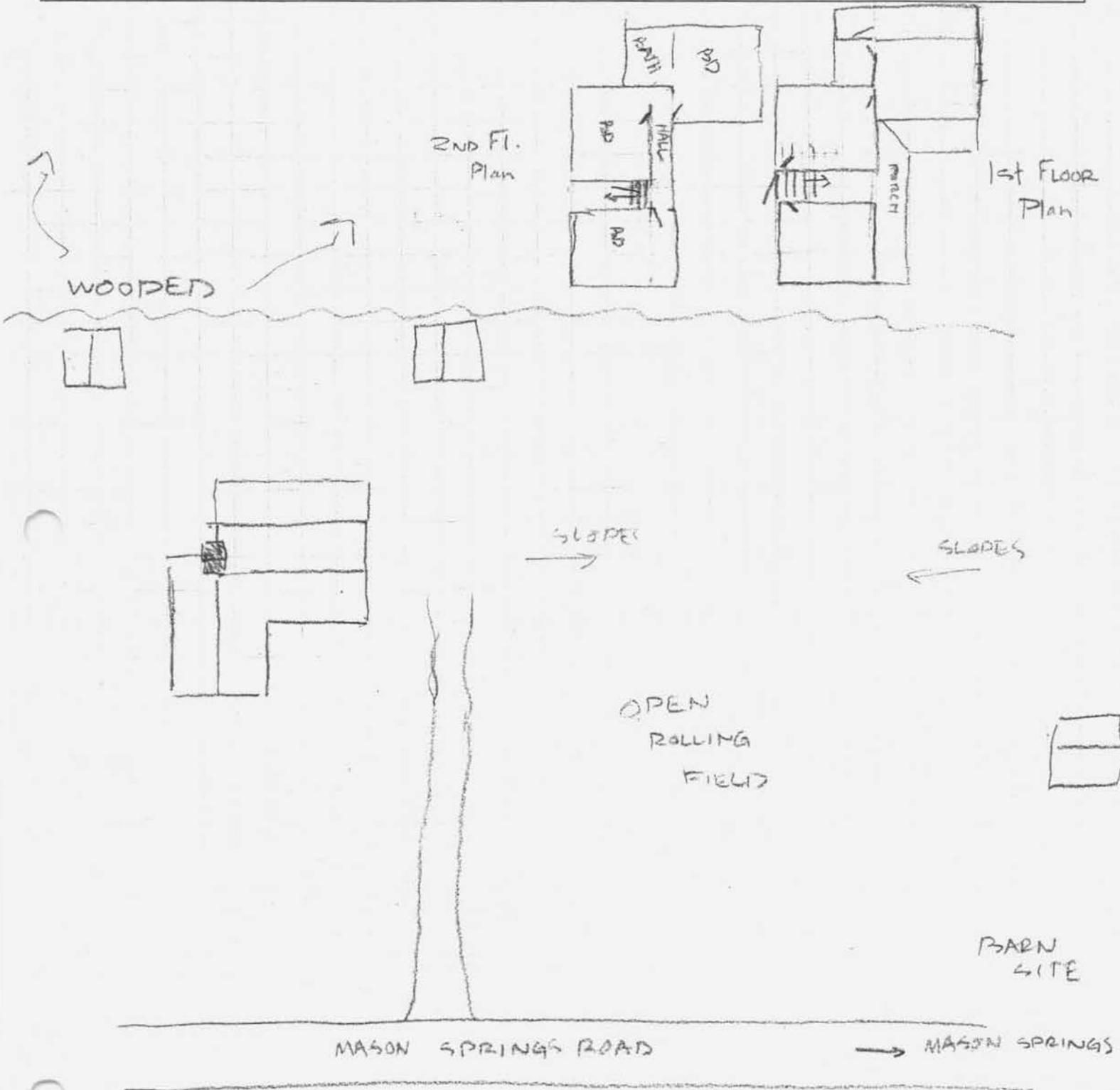
Name: JOSEPH & NELLIE LYON HOUSE

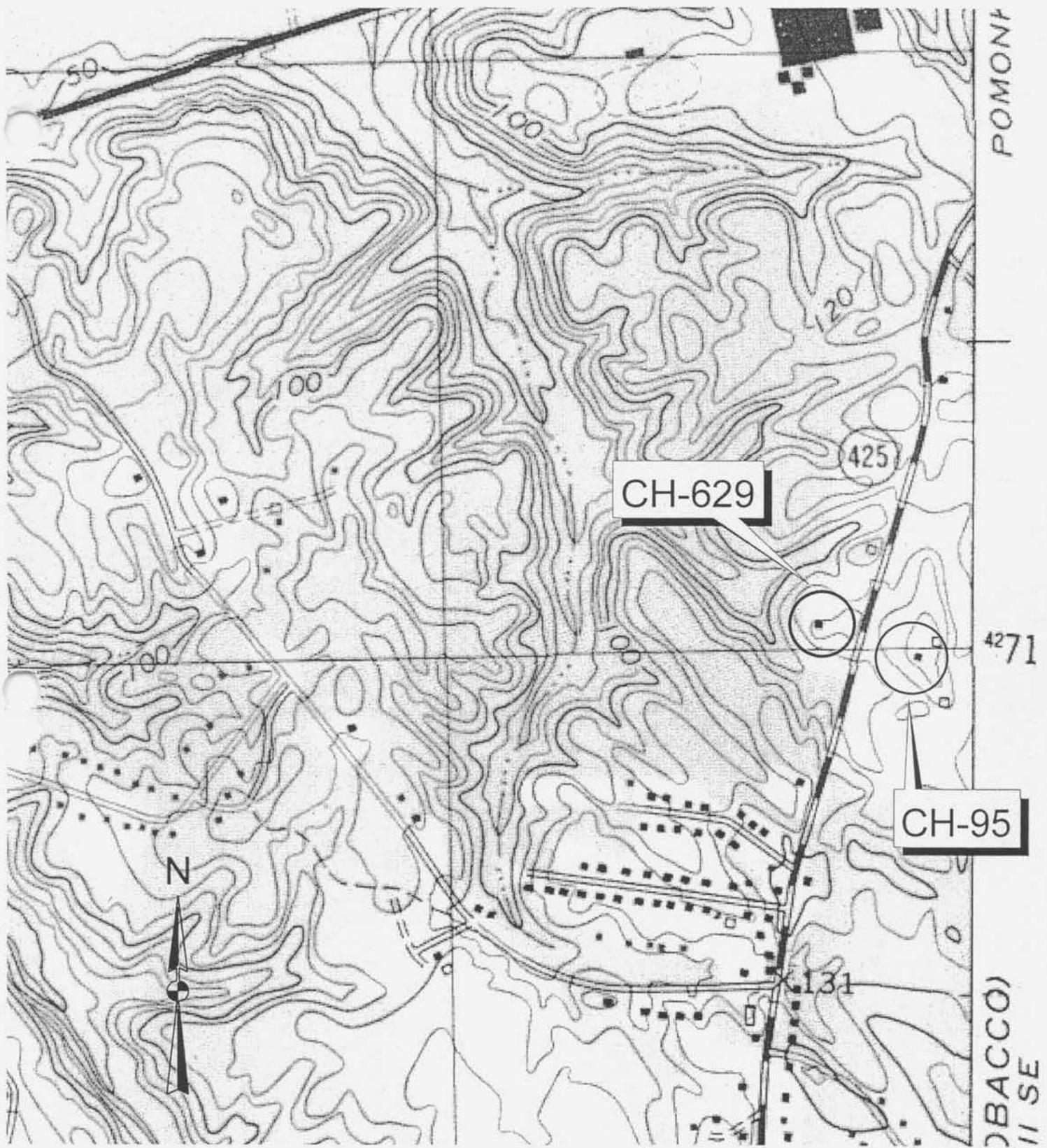
Address: 5165 MASON SPRINGS ROAD

CH - 629

Charles County, Maryland

MASON SPRINGS  Vicinity





Joseph & Nellie Lyons House  
CH-629  
Charles County, MD  
Indian Head, MD Quad



CH-629.  
JOSEPH & NELLIE LYON HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD

11/2000

C. CURRY  
MD SHPO  
LOOKING WEST



CH-629.  
JOSEPH & NELLIE Lyon House  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
11/2000  
C. CURREY  
MD SHPO  
LOOKING NW



CH-629,  
JOSEPH ? NELLIE LYON HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
11/2000  
C. CURREY  
MD SHPO  
LOOKING EAST



CH-629  
JOSEPH & NELLIE LYON HOUSE  
CHARLES CO. MD  
11/2000  
C. CURREY  
MD SHPO  
SHED, LOOKING WEST