

**5<sup>th</sup> District Polling House**  
**CH-702**  
**Tompkinsville**  
**Private**

**Circa 1925**

The 5th District Polling House is a simple early 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete block commercial structure prominently located at the corner of Mt. Victoria and Wicomico Beach Road. This modest structure is the only documented example of an independent election place in Charles County. The polling house is associated with the village of Tompkinsville where, during the early 20th century there were two permanent sawmills, a schoolhouse, at least one storehouse and a handful of large farms. Facing southwest, the building includes a single doorway and large window on the principal elevation. The side elevations include a parapeted roof descending in three steps from front to rear. The property is part of a wider farm known as "Plainfield" that consisted of approximately 300 acres at the time the building was erected.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-702

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

historic 5th District Polling House  
 other

### 2. Location

street and number NE corner Mt. Victoria and Wicomico Beach not for publication  
 city, town Tompkinsville vicinity  
 county Charles

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

name Aubrey W. Garner  
 street and number 3520 Four Mile Run Drive telephone Unknown  
 city, town Arlington state VA zip code 22206-2341

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 86 p. 160  
 city, town LaPlata liber 1180 folio 369

### 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
- Other

### 6. Classification

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

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. CH-702

### Condition

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input checked="" 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 5th District Polling House is a simple early 20th century concrete block commercial structure prominently located at the corner of Mt. Victoria and Wicomico Beach Road. Facing southwest, the building includes a single doorway and large window on the principal elevation. The side elevations include a parapeted roof descending in three steps from front to rear. The property is part of a wider farm known as "Plainfield" that consisted of approximately 300 acres at the time the building was erected.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-702

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	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**Specific dates** Circa 1925 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** Circa 1925

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 5th District Polling House is the only documented example of an election house in Charles County. The polling house is associated with the village of Tompkinsville where during the early 20th century there were two permanent sawmills, a schoolhouse, at least one storehouse and a handful of large farms. Bordering the site is Mt. Victoria (CH-35) the home and progressive farm of lawyer and lobbyist Robert Crain. While currently little is known about the site's development, the surrounding farm, known as Plainfield, was owned by the Frere family during the first part of the 20th century. After the death of William Frere, the property descended to his widow Josephine and children Francis Marie, Margaret and John. By 1940, the property was foreclosed upon and purchased by James Mortimer Hill. It remained in the possession of the Hill family until 1967.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-702

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1

Acreage of historical setting 300

Quadrangle name Colonial Beach North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 86, Parcel 160.

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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 9/13/01

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town LaPlata

state MD zip code 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-702

Section 8 Page 1

5<sup>th</sup> District Polling House  
name of property  
Charles County, MD  
county and state

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**Chain of title:**

- 1987 United States of America to Aubrey W. Garner  
**1180:369**
- 1985 Michael Rybek to United States of America  
C 39.952 acres & D 78.700 acres Plat reference 27:110  
**1119:547**
- 1967 Agnes A. Hill, widow to the Hill Development Company.  
**First** - Part of Plainfield 300 acres, excluding 58.75 acres adjoining Mt. Victoria  
and deed to Bennett Crain in 1964.  
**192:686**
- 1947 Last Will and testament of J. Mortimer Hill  
**REC 24:152**
- 1940 Walter H. Gray Assignee to James Mortimer Hill. Foreclosure of John E. Frere,  
Mary P. Frere his wife, Josephine Frere(widow), F. Marie Frere and Margaret  
Frere 47:619  
**WMA 72:611**
- 1922 Last will and testament of William Frere to wife Josephine Frere and to children  
F. Marie, Margaret and John E.  
**CHD 20**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 9 Page 1

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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, La Plata, Maryland.

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



CH-702 Charles County, MD  
Name: 5TH DISTRICT POLING HOUSE  
Location: TOMPKINSVILLE  
Quad: COLONIAL BEACH NORTH



CH-702  
5th DISTRICT POLLING HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

C. CURRIE

7/2001

MD SHPS  
LOOKING NE  
OF