

Welcome Firetower
CH-752
Welcome vic.
Private

1934

The Welcome Firetower is a riveted steel lattice tower standing on the west side of Firetower Road. Erected in 1934, the Welcome Firetower is one of two remaining firetowers in Southern Maryland that is believed to have been constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Active between 1933 and 1942 the Civilian Conservation Corp was created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in an effort to relieve widespread unemployment during the Great Depression and to counter soil erosion and declining timber resources. Two such camps existed in Charles County, Cedarville State Park and Doncaster State Forest. At least six towers once stood in Southern Maryland including Brandywine, Great Mills (St. Mary's County) and Pasadena. The land for the tower was given in 1934 by Charles Timothy Ford of nearby Rosemary Lawn (CH-105NR) for the administration of forestry.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-752

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Welcome Firetower

other

2. Location

street and number 6375 Firetower Road not for publication

city, town Welcome X vicinity

county Charles

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

name State of Maryland

street and number Tawes State Office Building telephone Unknown

city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21401

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 53 p.162

city, town La Plata, MD liber 59 folio 251

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> defense	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<u>1</u> <u>2</u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>1</u> _____ Total
		<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 type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

			0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-752

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 |
-

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

The Welcome Firetower is a riveted steel lattice tower standing on the west side of Firetower Road. Providing a sweeping view of much of Charles County, the tower which has recently been painted silver, includes two main and approximately six secondary observation platforms. The site, enclosed with a barbed wire fence, includes a ruinous outhouse at the far corner and a small concrete block shed inside the existing 8 foot wire mesh fence. The tower is ascended by a series of wooden stairs. The shed, used as a communication room, has an asphalt shingle roof and includes wood plank sheathing on the gable ends. The outhouse was a two door frame structure on a poured concrete foundation. The walls were covered with wood shingle siding which show evidence of original blue paint. The site is currently maintained by the Maryland State Police and was most recently used in preparation of any Y2K complications in 2000.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-752

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"/> philospohy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input 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 checked="" 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 1934 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1934

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.)

Erected in 1934, the Welcome Firetower is one of two remaining firetowers in Southern Maryland that is believed to have been constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Active between 1933 and 1942 the Civilian Conservation Corp was created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in an effort to relieve widespread unemployment during the Great Depression and to counter soil erosion and declining timber resources. Eventually there was at least one CCC camp in every State. Two such camps existed in Charles County, Cedarville State Park and Doncaster State Forest.

The Welcome Firetower was part of a grid system throughout Southern Maryland. The information was relayed to a control center in Brandywine (Prince Georges County) where spotters from various towers in the region could pinpoint the approximate location of a fire and send runners in the field. At least six towers once stood in Southern Maryland including Brandywine, Great Mills (St. Mary's County) and Pasadena. (1) In 1934, Charles Timothy Ford of nearby Rosemary Lawn (CH-105NR) granted 3/4 acre to the State of Maryland with the condition that it be used by for the administration of forestry or the property shall revert back to Ford. (2)

(1) Oral Interview with Cedarville State Park Forester Bob Hartlove.

2) Charles County Land Records Liber 59 Folio 251

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-752

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3/4

Acreage of historical setting 3/4

Quadrangle name Mathias Point

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 53 parcel 162.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

dat 7/23/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

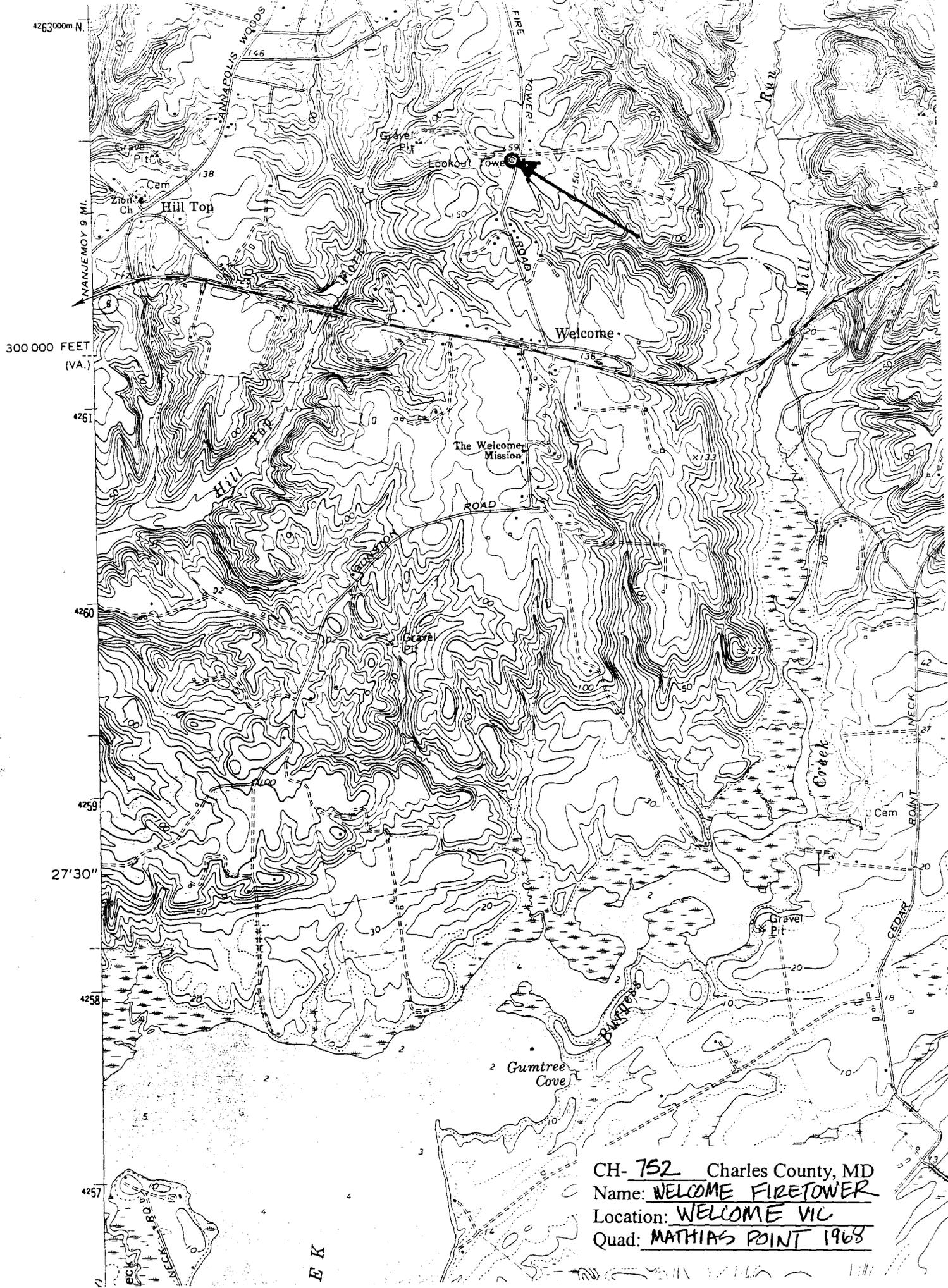
city or town La Plata

stat 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.

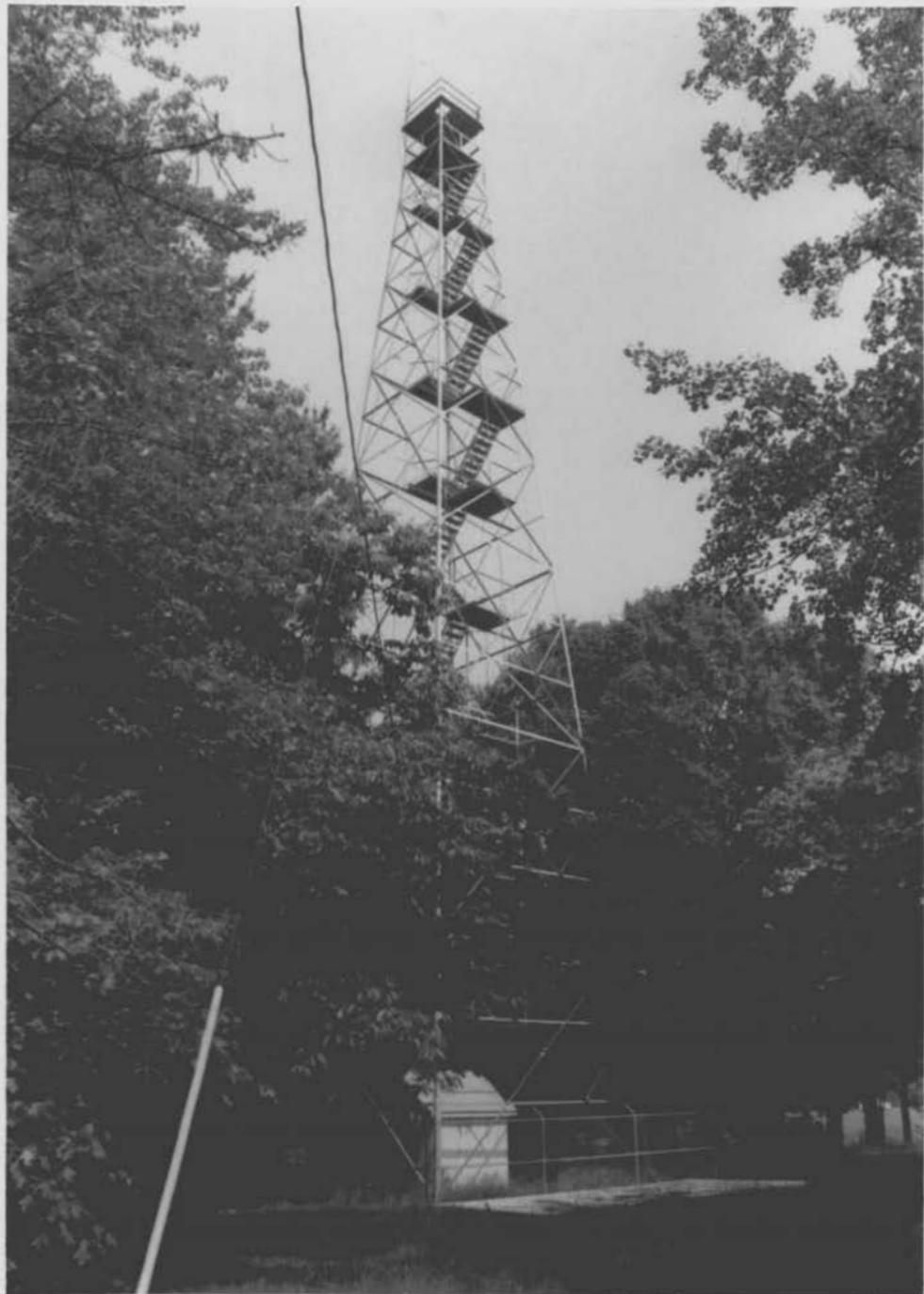
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600



CH- 752 Charles County, MD
Name: WELCOME FIRE TOWER
Location: WELCOME VIC
Quad: MATHIAS POINT 1968

E K



CH-752

WELCOME FIRETOWER
CHARLES CO. MD

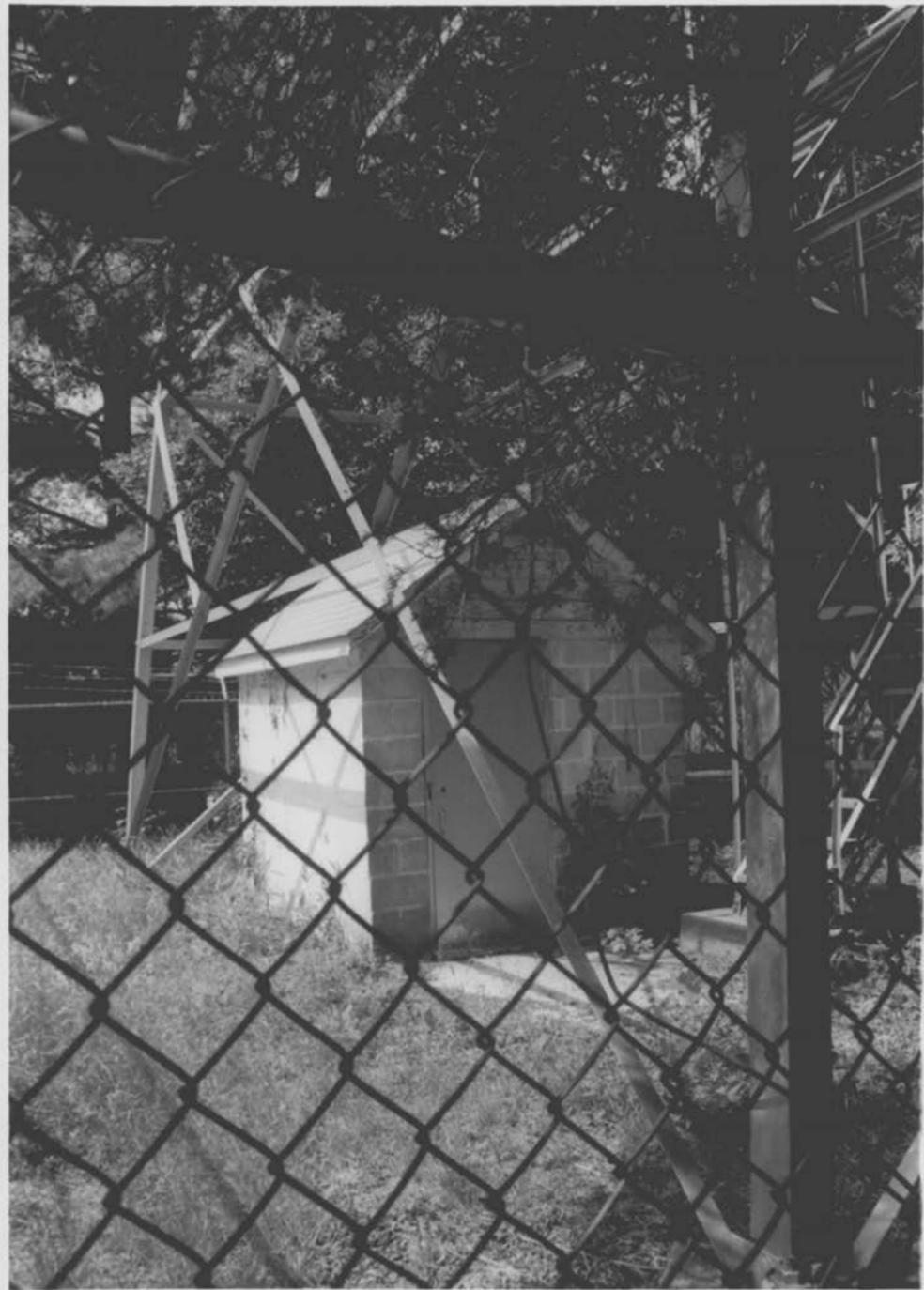
C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING NE

10F4



CH-752
WELCOME FIRETOWER
CHARLES CO. MD
C. HARDY
6/2002
MD SHPO

BLOCK STRUCTURE, LOOKING W

2014



CH-752

WELCOME FIRETOWER

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

OUTHOUSE REMAINS, LOOKING W

3 of 4



CH-752
WELCOME FIRE TOWER
CHARLES CO. MD
C. HARDY

6/2002
MD SHPO

LOG SKANPOST

5 of 4