

D-774
Maple Grove Farm
Rhodesdale vicinity
Private
c. 1810-20, c. 1870 and later

The Maple Grove farm is improved by an interesting collection of nineteenth century structures that includes a two-story tee-shaped frame dwelling built in two principal stages, beginning around 1810-20 as a side hall/parlor plan house. A Federal style staircase dominates the side passage, which also retains early nineteenth century six-panel doors as well as a boxed staircase to the attic on the second floor. A beaded board and batten door and horizontal boards enclose the attic staircase. Attached to the east gable end of the Federal dwelling during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, a two-story gable-front cross wing retains a Gothic Revival pointed arch attic window in front and a two-story bay pavilion on the east side. Victorian porches were stretched across the main and east side elevations as well.

Standing in the yard east of the house is a well preserved early nineteenth century common bond brick dairy built with a gable-front roof and an excavated, subterranean interior well. The plastered interior of the dairy retains plank shelving. Also on the farm is a mid nineteenth century mortise-and-tenon frame granary supported on a stone pier foundation.

Land record research for this East New Market district property establishes ownership of this farm back to the second quarter of the nineteenth century when James Thompson of Thomas conveyed 269 acres of "Harper's Regulation" to his brother Mitchell Thompson of Thomas for \$1500. Mitchell Thompson maintained title to the farm until the end of his life when his will conveyed ownership to his son, George A.

Thompson, in December 1868. It was most likely during George A. Thompson's tenure on the farm that the Gothic Revival cross wing was built on the east gable end of the Federal era farmhouse. George A. Thompson was a prosperous farmer during the second half of the nineteenth century, and he is designated as a resident on this farm in 1877 with a patron listing in the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas as the owner of 600 acres. Thompson family ownership of Harper's Regulation was maintained through the early twentieth century when a tenant on the property, Alpheus N. Harper, negotiated the purchase of the property in 1924. Harper family ownership and operation of the farm has been constant since that time.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-774

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Maple Grove Farm, Thompson Farm
 other Harper Farm

2. Location

street and number 4645 East New Market-Rhodesdale Road not for publication
 city, town Rhodesdale vicinity
 county Dorchester

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

name William and Peggy Harper
 street and number 4645 East New Market-Rhodesdale Road telephone 410-943-4173
 city, town Rhodesdale state MD zip code 21659

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber 432 folio 947
 city, town Cambridge tax map 34 tax parcel 159 tax ID number 2-022370

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
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>4</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<u>4</u> Total
		<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

7. Description

Inventory No. D-774

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Historically known as the Maple Grove farm, the Thompson farm, or more recently the Harper farm, the two-story, tee-shaped frame dwelling standing at the end of a black-topped lane, dates from two principal historic periods, the early nineteenth century and the post Civil War era. The original house, dating around 1810-20, was built as a two-story side hall/parlor plan structure that was enlarged with an asymmetrical cross-wing on its east end around 1870. The nineteenth century house is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding. The steeply pitched roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the south (rear) elevation are mid to late twentieth century additions. Standing immediately east of the house is an early nineteenth century common bond brick dairy. A group of farm buildings east of the house and dairy include a mid nineteenth timber frame granary supported on stone piers and sheathed with vertical board siding under a metal exterior covering.

COMPRENSIVE DESCRIPTION

The oldest sections of the Maple Grove farmhouse comprise a hybrid nineteenth century dwelling that combines a two-story side hall/parlor plan Federal era dwelling that was enlarged with a two-story Gothic Revival cross-wing on its east gable end around 1870. A Victorian porch was added to the front of the original house, and another porch stretches across the east side elevation which is also distinguished by a two-story, three-sided bay pavilion. Supported on a low brick foundation, the exterior of the dwelling is clad with aluminum siding and the steeply pitched roofs are sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the nineteenth century sections is a mid twentieth century addition.

The interior of the original side hall/parlor house retains a large amount of early nineteenth century woodwork including six-panel doors and a Federal style staircase. The slender square newel posts are topped with shallow, pyramidal caps. The main newel and landing posts along with slender, rectangular balusters support a circular profile handrail. Flat-panel Federal style doors remain in several locations. An enclosed stair provides access to the attic. A beaded board and batten door opens into the boxed enclosure, which is sheathed with wide horizontal boards. The early nineteenth century two-room attic is partially finished and partly unfinished. The east end is plastered, while the west side reveals an exposed common rafter roof system. A centrally located partition features a unpainted beaded board and batten door framed by a narrow ovolo profile backband molding. The exposed common rafter roof system has dovetailed and lapped collar beams. The wide yellow pine flooring is also intact. The east gable end, formerly exposed to the outside, was stripped of its siding when the cross wing was built after the Civil War. Sheared off nails in a regular pattern document the former location of horizontal weatherboards. Access into the cross wing attic reveals lighter weight framing members typical of the late nineteenth century. An unusual method of carrying the weight of the lower floor joists involves

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an iron tie rod that extends from the attic framing to a beam incorporated into the attic floor framing. The interior finishes of the Victorian cross wing have been modified during the twentieth century. Replacement single-pane sash windows have been substituted for the original windows except in the north gable end where a pointed arch Gothic window remains.

The single-story, one-room plan brick dairy is an early nineteenth century common bond brick structure with a subterranean storage well. The gable-front structure has a wood shingle roof and the edges of the roof are trimmed with boxed cornices on each side and plain bargeboards on the front and rear elevations. The west (main) elevation is pierced by a door opening framed by a narrow beaded edge molding, which is repeated with the boarded over window openings on each side. The boxed cornice have a beaded edge fascia. The interior is fully plastered and retains some plank shelving.

Standing east of the farmhouse complex is a group of farm buildings including a mid nineteenth century gable roof granary supported on stone piers and covered with metal sheathing. The vertical board sheathing remains underneath. The mortise-and-tenon frame structure has a heavy hewn sill and wide plank flooring. There is a ladder type stair in the northwest corner that provides access to a loft.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-774

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	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	<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 history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Maple Grove farm is improved by an interesting collection of nineteenth century structures that includes a two-story tee-shaped dwelling built in two principal stages, beginning around 1810-20 as a side hall/parlor plan house. A Federal style staircase dominates the side passage, which also retains early nineteenth century six-panel doors as well as a boxed staircase to the attic. A beaded board and batten door and horizontal boards encloses the attic staircase. Attached to the east gable end of the house during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, a two-story gable front cross wing retains a Gothic Revival pointed arch window and a two-story bay pavilion on its east side elevation. Standing in the yard east of the house is a well preserved early nineteenth century common bond brick dairy built with a gable-front roof and excavated subterranean well. The interior of the dairy is plastered and retains plank shelving. Also on the farm is a mid nineteenth century mortise-and-tenon frame granary supported on a stone pier foundation.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Land record research for this East New Market district property establishes ownership of this farm back to the second quarter of the nineteenth century when James Thompson of Thomas conveyed 269 acres of "Harper's Regulation" to his brother Mitchell Thompson of Thomas for the sum of \$1500.¹ Mitchell Thompson maintained ownership of the farm until the end of his life when his will conveyed the title to his son, George A. Thompson, in December 1868.² It was most likely during George A. Thompson's tenure on the farm that the Gothic Revival cross wing was built on the east gable end of the Federal style farmhouse. George A. Thompson was a prosperous farmer during the second half of the nineteenth century, and he is listed in the Lake,

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 18/302, 7 April 1841, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Will Book, EWL 1/483, probated 19 December 1868.

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Griffing, and Stevenson atlas patron list with 600 acres.³ Thompson family ownership of Harper's Regulation was maintained through the early twentieth century, when a tenant on the property, Alpheus N. Harper, negotiated the purchase of the farm in 1924.⁴ Harper family ownership and operation of the farm has been constant since that time.

³ John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 84.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 14/482, 19 April 1924, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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Maple Grove Farm
4645 East New Market-Rhodesdale Road
Rhodesdale vicinity, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 34, Parcel 159 135.52 acres

MLB 432/947

Harper Farms, Inc.

to

7.10.2000

W. A. Harper, Inc.

PLC 139/483

James N. Harper and Edna L. Harper

to

9.3.1964

Harper Farms, Inc.

JFD 14/482

L. Otis Corkran

to

4.19.1924

Alpheus N. Harper

described as Lot No. 13 in a deed from Emerson C. Harrington, Assignee
to L. Otis Corkran, 4.14.1924, JFD 14/477

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JFD 14/477

Emerson C. Harrington, Assignee

to

4.14.1924

L. Otis Corkran

\$32,000.00

Assignee of Mortgage in No. 4327 Chancery, and Sarah C. Thompson, Widow....Whereas George A. Thompson & Sons, Inc. and George A. Thompson, Sr. and the said Sarah O. Thompson, his wife, et al. executed unto Zoro H. Brinsfield, a mortgage upon the property hereinafter described and conveyed, said mortgage being dated 15th day of July 1922, and recorded JFD 12/492, Whereas after default in the payment of the principal summand interest named in said mortgage.....the said mortgage was thereafter duly assigned unto the said Emerson C. Harrington by the said Zoro H. Brinsfield for the purpose of foreclosure....and Whereas on the 10th day of July 1922, the said G. A. Thompson & Sons Inc. and the said George A. Thompson Sr. and Sarah O. Thompson his wife, et al. executed a deed of trust to the Eastern Shore Trust Company upon the property hereinafter granted and conveyed, which said Trust deed is recorded, JFD 11/673, and Whereas all of the indebtedness named in the said mortgage give as aforesaid to the said Zoro H. Brinsfield as well as all the indebtedness called for in the said Trust deed to the Eastern Shore Trust Company has been fully paid, and Whereas the said property hereinafter described and conveyed was owned in fee by the said George A. Thompson, Sr. and Whereas the said George A. Thompson, Sr. has since the giving of said mortgage and Trust deed, departed this life and left a last will and testament which is duly of record, in which last will and testament he devised all of his property of every kind and description to the said Sarah O. Thompson, and Whereas the said Sarah O. Thompson has field in the said No. 4327 Chancery a consent to the said sale by the said Assignee of Mortgage....

...all that tract or parcel of land, lying and being in East New Market District of Dorchester County, which was conveyed unto Mitchell Thompson by James Thompson, by deed dated the 7th day of April 1841, and recorded in the land records in ER 18/308, and consisting of

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two hundred and ninety acres, more or less. The property hereby conveyed being a part of the same land that was devised unto the said George A. Thompson, Sr. by the last will and testament of Mitchell Thompson, dated 19 December 1868, and recorded in the EWL 1/483...it being the same property now occupied as tenants by Charles H. Thompson and Alpheus N. Harper and being especially the same property described in a report of sales, under Section 3, as Lots No. 13 and 13-A, and in the Advertisement of Sale of the property....

Dorchester County
Will Book
EWL 1/483

Last Will and Testament of Mitchell Thompson

to

12.19.1868

George A. Thompson

ER 18/308

James Thompson of Thomas

to

4.7.1841

Mitchell Thompson of Thomas

\$1500 "Harper's Regulation" 269 acres...lying on the
main road leading from Crotchers Ferry to New Market

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Graham, John L. ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Interview with Peggy Harper, 12.3.08

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 10 acres
Acreage of historical setting 135.52 acres
Quadrangle name Rhodesdale, MD 1944

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

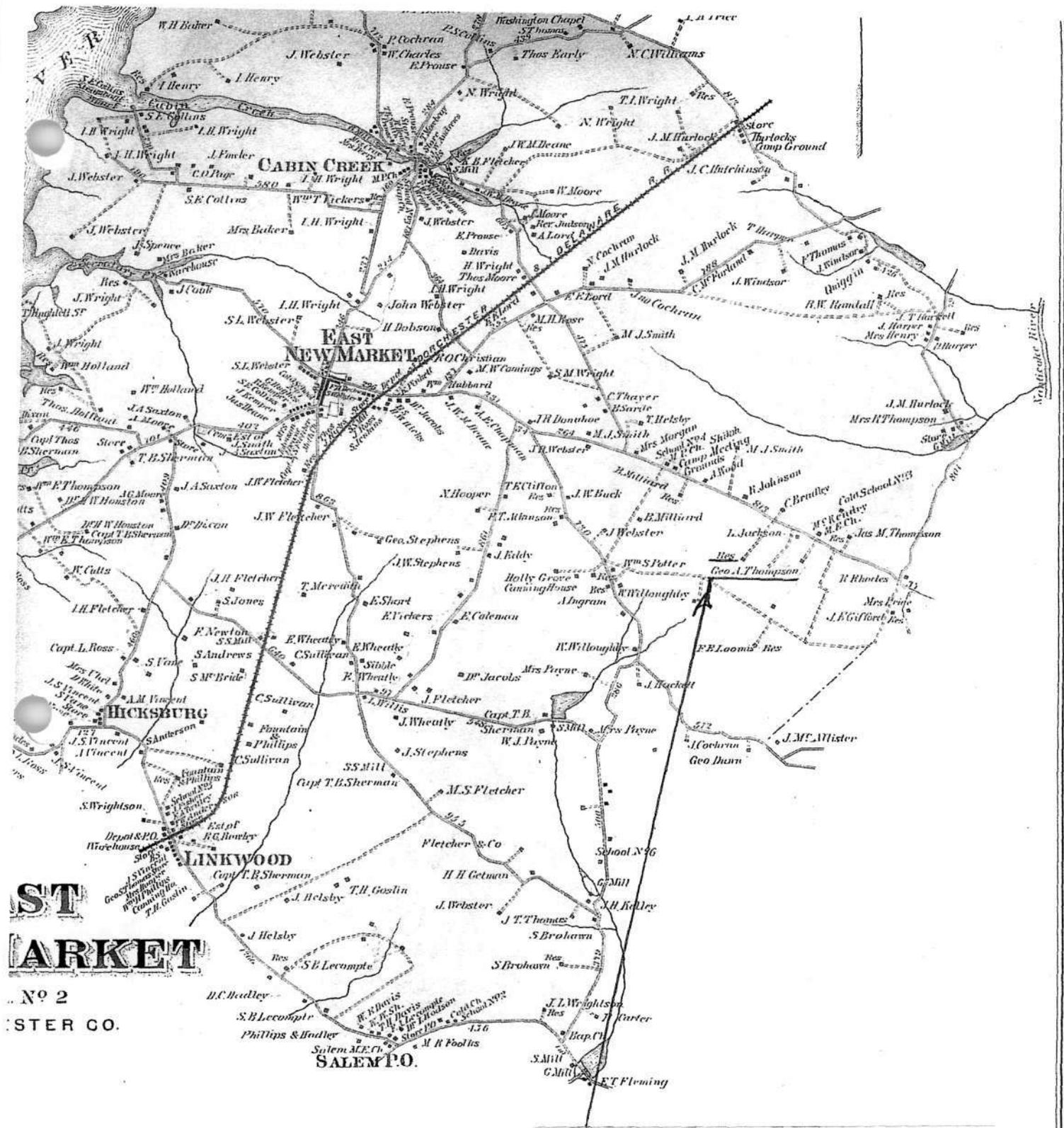
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	12.3.08
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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.

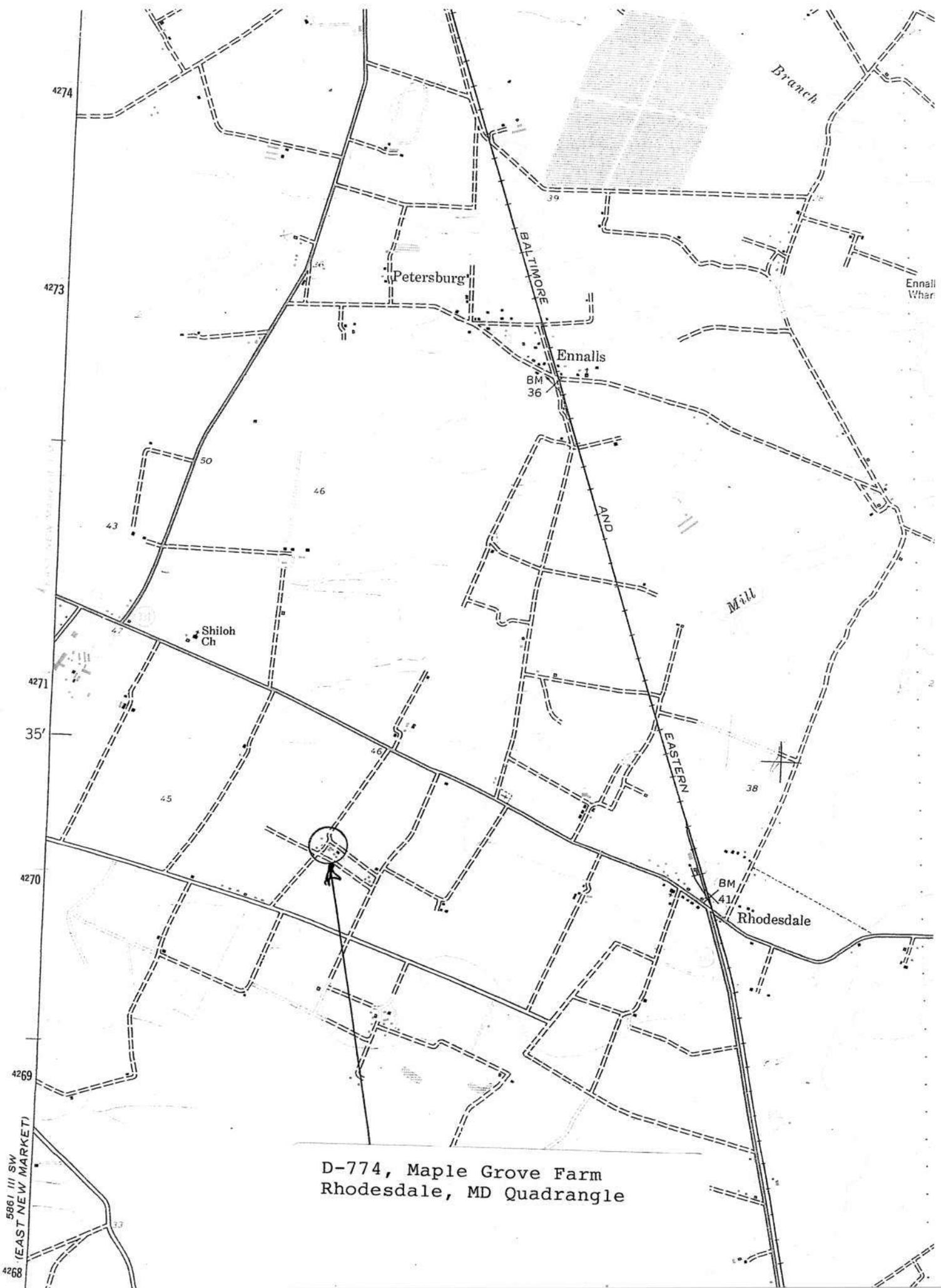
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



**ST
MARKET**

No 2
STER CO.

D-774, Maple Grove Farm
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson At
1877



D-774, Maple Grove Farm
Rhodesdale, MD Quadrangle

5861 III SW
(EAST NEW MARKET)
4268



D-774

MAPLE GROVE FARM

RITWATER DUNE VIC, DORCHESTER Co., MD

NORTH ELEVATION

11/08, PAUL TOWNSEND PHOTOGRAPHER
MET. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1/4



D-774

MAPLE GROVE FARM

RHODESDALE VIC., DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

11/00, PAUL TOWNSET, PHOTOGRAPHER

2/4



D-774

MAPLE GROVE FARM

RITTSRESIDALE VIC, DOUGLASSVILLE GA, AND

NORTHWEST ELEVATION OF DARY

11/00, PAUL THOMAS, PHOTOGRAPHER

W.F. AND HISTORICAL TRUST

3/4



D-774

MAPLE GROVE FARM

RHODESDALE VIC., DORCHESTER Co., MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION OF GRANARY

11/08, PAUL THOMAS, PHOTOGRAPHER

MEMO. MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

4/4