

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1080  
1310904235

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Poplar Grove Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Orly Reedy Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Moore's Mill Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Orly G. Reedy

Telephone #: 838-6194

STREET & NUMBER

Moore's Mill Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: DGW 211

Folio #: 550

STREET & NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD            | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This structure is located upon a rise and faces towards the northeast. It is essentially divided into three sections; a westward original house, a less substantial wing on the eastern end, and east of this, a once-seperate building that stands perpendicular to the other sections. All of these sections are two-story, with uncoursed fieldstone walls and quined corners. They will hereby be described seperately.

The main house

This portion is a "high" two and one-half stories, with three bays across the northern and southern exposures, but no openings on the ends. The window sashes are 6 X 6, with exception of those on the northeast face of the first floor, which are floor-length and 2 X 2 X 2. This part of the wall has also been mortared over. The doors are opposite each other, connected by a thru-hall. The northeast entrance has a four-light transom, while the southern ingress is completely enclosed with a two-tiered panelled porch that features dentil and cornice roof trim. Double doors lead from the porch foyer to the actual doorway. The cellar entrance is located on this side also, near the southwest corner. One "odd" window is situated on the same embrasure as well, a casement with bracketed cornice trim. The roof is gable-flank and asphalt-covered. Two dormers are on either side with corniced gables and architrave trim. Underneath the roof is a box cornice and frieze trim. Two very tall parallel chimneys are located on the inside ends of the western part of the roof (looking north). They are brick, capped and on the slopes of the roof. The porch is along the northern facade in three bays, with a shed roof and cornice trim. Near the northwest corner of the house is etched the date, "1787".

The center section

This is a smaller two-story building, not entirely flush with the main house. Again, there are three openings across the northern and southern walls, but none on the extremes. Two 3 X 3 cellar openings are located on the northern facade, while the rest of the windows are 2 X 2's and are in nailed frames. The two doorways are on the southern side and are sheltered by a partially-enclosed shed-roofed porch. The roof is gable-flank and of tin, with a single brick chimney on the western inside end.

The connected structure

This was constructed as a seperate house and later linked to the rest of the house via a frame garage. It is similar to the central section, measuring three bays by two, the northern and southern exposures having only two small 4 X 2 attic windows. The other windows are 6 X 6. Cellar openings are also located on the northern side. A frame addition on the western aspect (looking north) contains the original entrance to the building. A recently-enclosed cellarway is on the southern wall. The roof is gable-flank and has slate shingles, with barge and eaves of the simplest form. A brick, inside-end flue is sited on the northern embrasure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

| PERIOD  |  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING      | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION            | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE  | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS               | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION               | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING             | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |   |  |  |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The tract on which Poplar Grove Farm is located dates from 1600, when the British Crown granted to one James Maxwell a 600-acre tract called "Major's Choice". It was passed down to James Maxwell Matthews in 1700, who held it until his death in 1760. The tract then went to Rebecca Matthews, who married Dr. Phillip Henderson. He was active in the Revolutionary War, serving in Captain Carvill Hall's First Company of Harford troops in 1775. Henderson built the present house in 1787, and the stone outbuildings before that. With his death in 1812, the farm went to Thomas Henderson and then to James McCormack, father of J. Lawrence McCormack. The McCormacks owned the farm from the 1820's until 1929, and were credited with the introduction of Guernsey cattle to Harford County. The 1878 Martenet Map shows the owner of the house to be James McCormack. Since 1929, the owner of the farm has been Oriy G. Reedy, and this is the last operating farm to be encompassed within the Bel Air town limits.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Federal Tax List of 1798  
Harford County Land Records  
Interview with Orly G. Reedy-as well as private papers  
Martenet's Map of 1878  
Preston, W. W.; History of Harford County, 1901, Sun Press, Baltimore.  
Wright, C. Milton; Our Harford Heritage, 1967, French-Bray, Baltimore.  
~~CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY~~

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 133

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located off of a lane that extends from the southwest side of Moore's Mill Road, bounded to the southeast by the Bel Air Middle School, to the north by Moore's Mill Road, and elsewhere by the Bel Air corporate limit line.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paul L. Perrod/ site surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

June 25, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

267-1212

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## Description of Poplar Grove Farm- con't

The interior

The main house is somewhat unusual in that the thru-hall is located on the end instead of in the center of the house. Some earlier features have been retained, such as the inset windows, box locks and a few board-and-batten doors, but the wainscotting, chair rails and other wood trim are Nineteenth Century in nature. There are two fireplaces on each floor, all of carved brown marble with spandrels and cartouches (see drawing). A large kitchen fireplace, since covered over, is positioned in the present kitchen. In the cellar there are two massive arches underneath the fireplaces, and many of the original logs and hand-hewn beams remain. Wood wedges have been driven in between the supports and the beams to ensure a tighter fit and this arrangement dates from the building of the house.

The outbuildings

With the exception of the old icehouse, the meathouse, the shop and the corncrib, the rest of the outbuildings are of Nineteenth or early Twentieth Century vintage. This latter group's structures are all of rude vertical frame. The enclosed diagram better shows the positioning and the use of these structures. The barn is three-storied, with a stone foundation and a causeway leading to the main entrance. The icehouse is a ruin, the stone smokehouse has a gable-front roof and a single eastern doorway and the corncrib has a stone base and wood upper works. The oldest structure is said to be the stone shop, which is two bays by one with 6 X 6 windows. The roof is gable flank.

INVENTORY NO. 1080

ELECTION DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: 4/15/76

TAX MAP NO. \_\_\_\_\_

REMODELING:  Drastic,  moderate,  minor

PARCEL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PROPERTY: REEDY FARM

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: LANE OFF OF MOORE'S MILL RD.

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: NORTH EAST

NAME OF OWNER: ORLY G. REEDY

ADDRESS: MOORE'S MILL RD  
BEZAR

STORIES: 1[ ] 2[ ] 3[ ] 4[ ] 5[ ] 6[ ] BAYS:

2 X 0 0 2  
3 X 0 0 1  
2 X 2 (ATTIC WINDOW) C

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

SEE BACK

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten(type?)
- BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- LOG UNCONSTRUCTED

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS NONE

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1[ ] 2/2[ ] 6/6[ ] 9/6[ ] 9/9[ ] other[ ]  
pegged[ ] nailed[ ] wide[ ] narrow[ ]  
original[ ] replaced[ ]

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
HARDWARE: original[ ] replaced[ ]  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES:  
original[ ] replaced[ ]

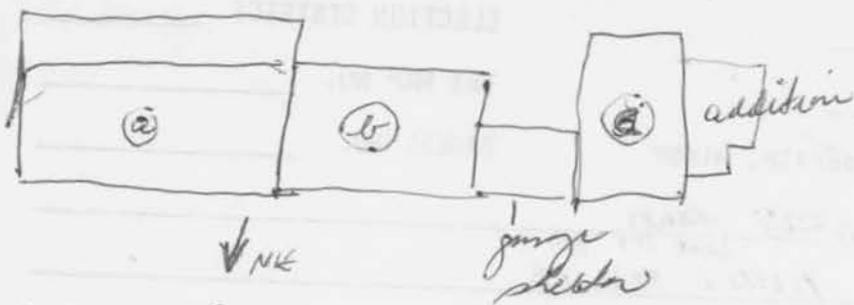
ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, MANSARD, FLAT, DORMERS  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original[ ] replaced[ ]

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed[ ] hip[ ] gable[ ]

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ BRICK[ ] STONE[ ] CORBELED[ ] original[ ] replaced[ ]  
LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ARCHES:

COMMENTS:



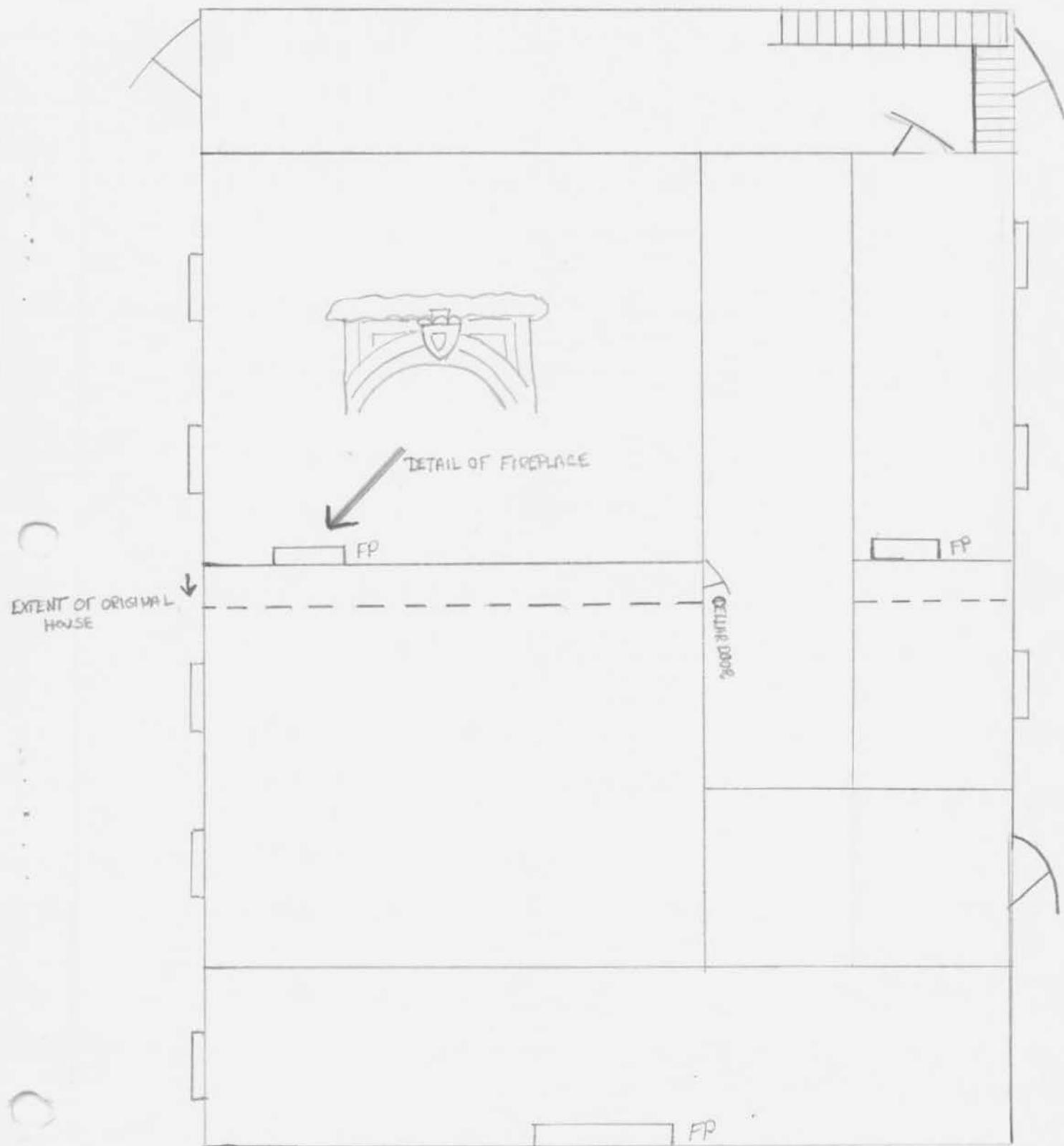
- ③ slat roof
- N. side has cell opening
- N. " " unit in side-end chimney
- S. side has <sup>4x2</sup> attic window

Long + eave, slat roof  
 gable flank  
 eave frame on ~~west~~ side in front addition  
 frame cell opening in rear of house - south end

- ④ smaller than ③ - 2x2 windows nailed cell window 3x3 in NE face
- in side end chimney - ~~west~~ end capped
- tin gable slat roof - no window or eave end
- attic on south side - covered with <sup>wood</sup> porch - ~~front~~ rear
- req. covered

- ⑤ log corner + spire asphalt roof - gable flank few parallel <sup>weathered</sup> side-end
- Chimney gable full-capped <sup>6x6</sup> <sup>timber</sup> <sup>post</sup> cell opening on south side
- link <sup>felt</sup> <sup>insulation</sup> of peak
- 2 dormer on either side with architrave trim - gable corner
- 4 fireplaces on each floor - floor length window 2x2x2 1st floor front
- shrubbed opposite dorm. NK one has 4.27 trimmer - 1st floor full mottled
- over - 3 bay porch shed roof - <sup>req.</sup> corner

Rear door is covered with an extra enclosed porch with  
 corner, double + two fixed porch double door led with porch  
 flat roof  
 single dormer in rear is a double framed one with cornice

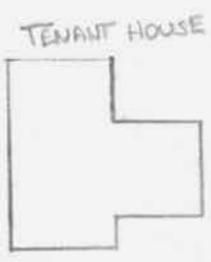
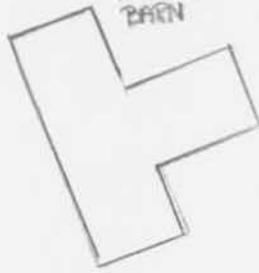
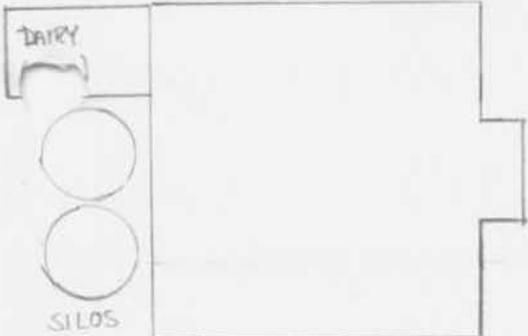


SHED

\* - ORIGINAL OUTBUILDING

OLD  
ICEHOUSE

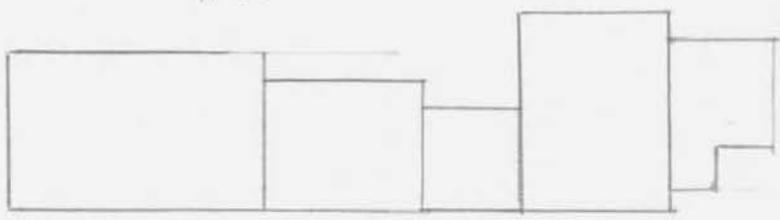
HEIFER  
BARN



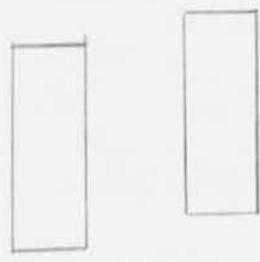
"POPLAR GROVE"  
LAYOUT



HOUSE

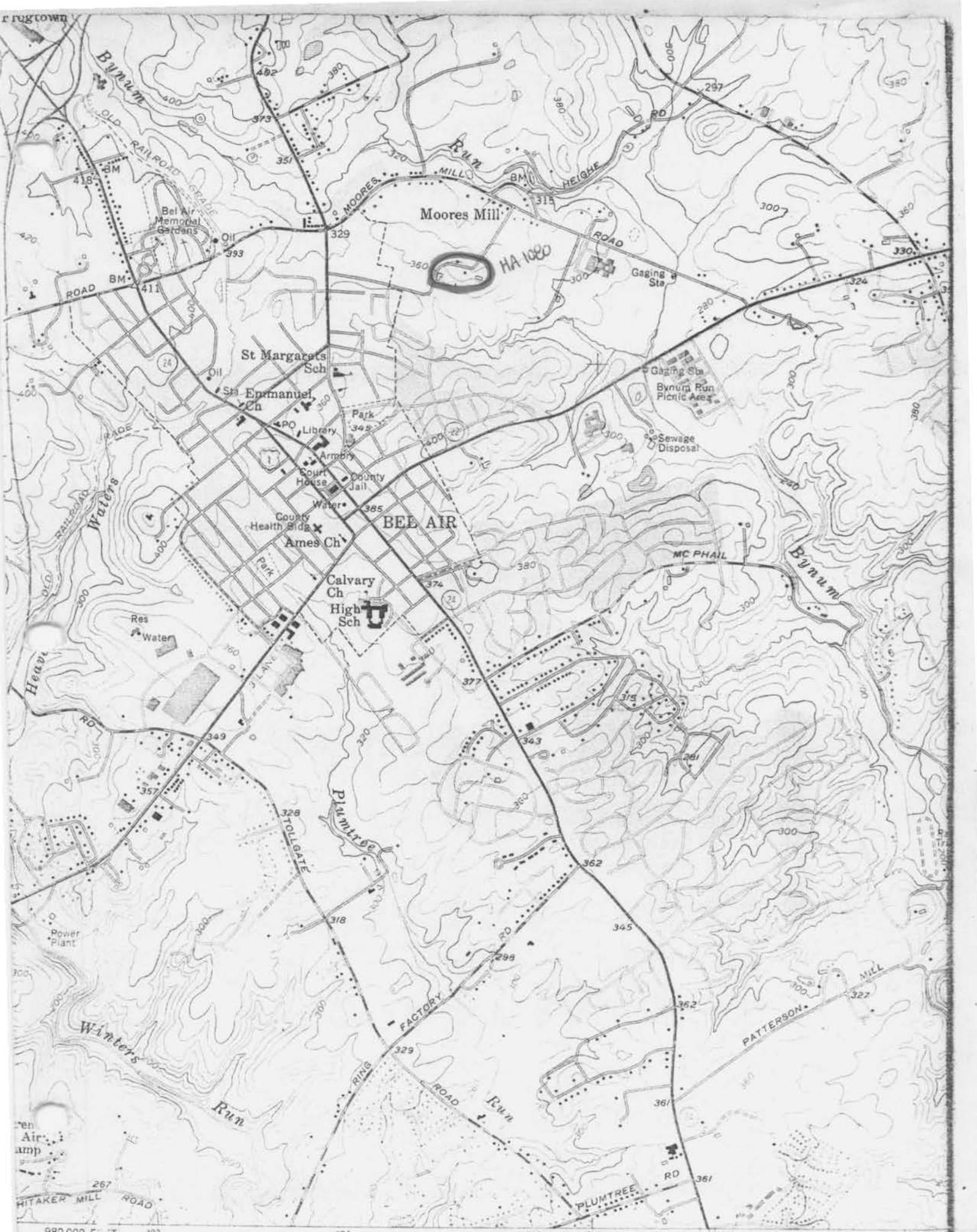


CHICKEN HOUSES



## TITLE SEARCH

| <u>Libre</u> |     | <u>Folio</u> |   |
|--------------|-----|--------------|---|
| DGW          | 211 | 550          | Orly G. Reedy purchased the 133-acre Poplar Grove Farm from J. Lawrence McCormack in 1929.  |
| DGW          | 186 | 379          | Elizabeth McCormack Finney sold the tract to J. Lawrence McCormack in 1915  |
| WSF          | 117 | 205          | Elizabeth McCormack Finney obtained the farm from John D. Worthington, trustee. Worthington had charge over the property after a 1901 land case involving Elizabeth McCormack Finney and J. Lawrence McCormack.   |
| ALJ          | 48  | 405          | In 1884, Mary J. McCormack sold the Poplar Grove Farm, consisting of 305 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, to J. Lawrence McCormack.   |
| HD           | 29  | 171          | In 1844, James M. McCormack purchased 126 acres of Major's Choice from Elizabeth McCormack. It had been given to her husband, James, in 1828 by the heirs of Dr. Philip Henderson.  |
| HD           | 29  | 373          | Also in 1844, John Henderson sold 250 acres of Major's Choice to J. M. McCormack. The land had been devised to John Henderson by Dr. Philip Henderson. The land records are incomplete in that the transition from Philip to John is not recorded. It is known that Dr. Philip Henderson acquired the property in 1765 and held it until his death in 1812. |





Poplar Grove HA-1080  
Moore's Mill Road  
Bel Air, MD  
Paul Penrod  
East side

7/76



Poplar Grove HA-1080  
Moore's Mill Road  
Bel Air, MD  
Paul Penrod  
West side

7/76