

HA-1813

Presbury Frame House
Gravelly Hill, Md.

Capsule-Summary

This is one of the older surviving houses in the small black community of Gravelly Hill. It is currently abandoned. In scale and plan, it resembles rural vernacular dwellings found elsewhere in Harford County.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Presbury Frame House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Gravelly Hills

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF west of Havre de Grace

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ralph D. Presbury

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 83

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21078

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

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

NA-1613

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

The Presbury House is located on the north side of 4124 Gravelly Hill Road. It is a two story frame residence that faces south, and it has a gable end roof(ridge runs E-W) and an L-plan. The house rests on fieldstone piers and is three bays wide by one bay deep, with a 1½ story ell to the north that is one bay by one bay. On the south facade, there is a center entrance, and a one story shed roof porch supported by plain square posts. The house is covered with asphalt shingles in imitation of brick, but under this covering on the south, beaded horizontal tongue and groove planks were observed. Vertical planks were observed on the other three elevations. Windows on the first story are 6/6, and 3/6 on the second story. There are brick chimneys in the west end of the main block and the north end of the ell.

The interior was not accessible; however it would appear that the plan is a one room down and one or two room up, so typical of rural vernacular residences.

Note-no measurements or floor plan done

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 Presbury House is one of the older surviving residences in the Gravelly Hill community. Like most other black residences constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it is relatively plain and straightforward in plan, and is not unlike residences constructed by and for rural whites of the same period. However, not enough research and field work has been done in Harford County (as of 6-81) to be able to draw specific conclusions about regional black architectural characteristics. Due to the fact that many of these older homes are inadequate by twentieth century standards, they have been abandoned and are in deteriorating condition. The possibility exists that they will quietly vanish without ever having been adequately recorded.

Gravelly Hills is apparently one of Harford County's older discrete black settlements. In fact, archival research (see 26/151 Harford Co. Land Rec.) shows that there were land transactions between whites and blacks in 1842 in this area. As of December 1980, the village still has a number of older residents who have distinct memories about the past (social life, family life, farming, schools, and churches). While much has been written about the white experience in Harford County, little is known, and even less is documented about the black role here. More work in the Gravelly Hills area, including oral taping sessions, examination of personal memorabilia, as well as detailed recording of the remaining buildings would ensure that a vital part of Harford's local history would not be forgotten.

Note- no title search done for this property,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE	Phillip Lord/Wayne Nield	Historic Site Surveyors
ORGANIZATION	Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning	DATE June, 1981
STREET & NUMBER	45 South Main Street	TELEPHONE 838-6000
CITY OR TOWN	Bel Air	STATE Maryland

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



Presbury House HA-1613

Gravelly Hills, Md.

Phillip Lord 12/80

Southwest elevation



Presbury House HA-1613
Gravelly Hills, Md.
Phillip Lord 12/80
Southeast elevation